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Third Session, 1937

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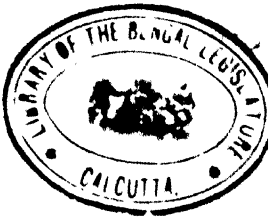

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THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

(Official Report of the Third Session.)

Volume LII—No. 2.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 17th February 1938, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 202 Members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Pay and prospects of the work-sircars and mistries in the Workshops Electrical Division.

***31. Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that the pay and prospects of work-*sircars* and *mistries* in the Electrical Workshops under the Executive Engineer, Workshops Electrical Division, are uncertain and inadequate;

(*ii*) that these employees are treated as temporary hands with no future prospects;

(*iii*) that many of them have been rendering continuous service even up to 30 years;

(*iv*) that for these employees there is no pension, gratuity or provident fund benefits; and

(*v*) that except casual leave for 10 days in a year there is no leave with pay for these employees?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) are in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of making the services of this class of

employees permanent with fixed scale of pay and prospects of pension and provident fund benefits and privilege leave in case of illness?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) what are the findings of the discussion and investigation in 1933 regarding the conditions of work in the Workshops Electrical Division; and

(ii) whether he is considering the desirability of placing on the table the correspondence ending with Public Works Department letter No. 3612E., dated the 30th August, 1933, in connection with the aforesaid matter?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Kasimbazar: (a) (i) The pay of work-*sircars* and *mistries* is fixed in each case in relation to the usual rate of wages paid in the trade for similar work. They are subject to termination of employment when no longer required for execution of work.

(ii), (iii) and (v) Yes.

(iv) Yes, but in specially deserving cases of long service, gratuities are sometimes granted by Government on termination of employment.

(b) No.

(c) (i) The result of the discussion was that Government issued definite orders as to hours of work and overtime.

(ii) A copy of Public Works Department letter No. 3612E., dated the 30th August, 1933, is placed on the Library table.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the usual rates of wages given to work-*sircars* and *mistries*?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: The pay varies from Rs. 17 to Rs. 65 per month.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this amount is sufficient for *mistries* and work-*sircars* to maintain themselves?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a matter of opinion.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: Yes, Sir, it is a matter of opinion.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: With reference to answer (a) (iv), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether 10 years' service is regarded by him as long service, which really deserves gratuities as mentioned in this answer?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: That, too, Sir, is a matter of opinion.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*a*) (*iv*), the number of persons who have received gratuities on the termination of their employment?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: I want notice.

Organisation of welfare work.

*32. **Mr. J. N. GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state what arrangement has been made up till now to organise the welfare work for which a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been sanctioned?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): It was never within the contemplation of Government to organise welfare work out of the sum of Rs 10,000. If *bona fide* welfare organisations working amongst labourers come up to Government with a well-defined programme for welfare work, and if Government are satisfied after scrutiny that the welfare of the labourers will be promoted by these organisations and the money well spent, Government will assist these organisations.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for what purpose this Rs. 10,000 was sanctioned?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I would ask the hon'ble member to read my answer before asking that question.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any *bona fide* welfare organisation has come up to Government for help up to this time, and if so, what are the numbers of those welfare organisations?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: One such welfare organisation has applied to Government, and I am considering this application. It is under submission to me at the present moment.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if a bona fide trade union is recognised as a *bona fide* organisation for welfare work?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If such a trade union takes up welfare work, then certainly it is a welfare organisation.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amount was given to that particular welfare organisation which has been mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister just now?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No amount has yet been given to this organisation; the file is under submission, as I have said already.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any portion out of this Rs. 10,000 has been paid to any organisation, and if so, to what organisation?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No money has been spent out of this Rs. 10,000 or given to any organisation: hence the second question does not arise.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the amount now under the contemplation of Government to pay to that particular organisation?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Government does not contemplate at the present moment any particular sum.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many registered trade unions in Bengal are called *bona fide* trade unions?

Mr. SPEAKER: This question does not arise out of this.

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the criterion of a *bona fide* organisation? Has any definition been laid down?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Of a *bona fide* welfare organisation?

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: A *bona fide* welfare organisation is an organisation that promotes the welfare of labour in good faith. (Laughter.)

Muslim and non-Muslim employees under the Court of Wards in Chittagong.

***33. Al-Haj Maulana Dr. SANAULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the number of all the Muslim and non-Muslim employees, grade by grade, under the Court of Wards and *Khas Mahal* including—

(*a*) menials,

(*b*) Law Agents, and

(*c*) Assistant pleaders,

in the North and South Groups, respectively, of the district of Chittagong?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): A statement is laid on the Library table.

Number of Muslim Forest officers.

***34. Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forest and Excise Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, division by division—

(*i*) the number of Forest officers (temporary and permanent) working at present in each rank and as guards;

(*ii*) the number of Muslim officers in each rank as guards; and

(*iii*) the number of temporary Muslim officers?

(*b*) If the percentage of Muslims is low in the department, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason?

(*c*) Do the Government propose taking steps for the adequate representation of the Muslims in all the ranks of the department?

MINISTER in charge of the FORESTS and EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikat): (*a*) A statement is laid on the table. The Bengal Civil List may be referred to for

distribution of Imperial Forest Service and Bengal Forest Service officers by divisions. Distribution of other officers by divisions is not readily available.

Rank.	(i) Number of officers (permanent and temporary).	(ii) Number of Muslim officers.	(iii) Number of temporary Muslim officers.
Imperial Forest Service..	22 (4 posts are held in abeyance).	1	..
Bengal Forest Service ..	13 (1 post held in abeyance).	2	..
Rangers	61	9	..
Deputy Rangers ..	74	10	..
Foresters	172	48	27
Guards	537	114	46
Clerks	111	25	14
Other forest services ..	314	62	62

(*b*) Because in the past fully qualified Muslim candidates did not come forward for these posts.

(*c*) Yes.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the minimum qualifications of a guard as described by him in answer to question (*a*) (*I*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKAT: He must be suitable for that purpose.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that previously strong and stout Muslims were not available for appointment in this department?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKAT: I am unable to state the reason.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the minimum qualifications for a clerk?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKAT: Well, he must know how to keep accounts and to do other work of an office.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are any percentages fixed for the appointment of Mussalmans in the Forest Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKAT: This question of percentage is under consideration.

Appointment in the Campbell Medical School and Hospital.

***35. Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the post of the Teacher of Medicine and First Physician in the Campbell Medical School and Hospital has been filled up by appointment of an officer in supersession of the claims of other officers senior to the present incumbent; and

(*ii*) the post of the Third Surgeon and Teacher of Clinical Surgery of the said school has been filled up by the appointment of a junior officer in supersession of the claims of a senior officer who was acting in the post?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Nausher Ali): (*a*) (*i*) The officer appointed as Teacher of Medicine was considered most suitable and the appointment does not involve any question of supersession.

(*ii*) The postings were made in the interest of public service and no question of supersession arises.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the grounds that led him to come to the conclusion that this appointment was most suitable?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: It is a teaching post. The decision rests with the Government as to whether the officer is fit to take up the task of teaching.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the other senior officers were considered most unsuitable?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I have already replied that he was considered the most suitable. There were many senior officers who were quite unsuitable for the purpose.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: On a point of order, Sir. My question was whether the other senior officers were considered unsuitable or not. I want a reply to that.

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: If anything more has got to be added, I can say at once that of all the officers now in the Bengal Medical Service this officer was considered the most suitable.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the reply just given, may I enquire whether there were any applicants with longer teaching experience for this post, which, as has been stated, is the main criterion for selection?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: No question of application arises in a case of this description. It is a question not of an appointment, strictly speaking, it is a question of posting of an officer to a suitable post, and it was a post where teaching experience and aptitude were necessary. For this particular post this particular officer was considered the most suitable of the whole lot of officers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer *(i)* may we know if there is any difference between the interest of public service and interest of service to the public?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a question. You must put supplementary questions only to elicit information.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the two fortunate officers?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it would not be desirable to have the names of the officers mentioned, because it would not be fair to them, especially as we are concerned with the question of principle only.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Regarding the most suitable teacher of medicine, may I know whether he is a Hindu, or a Mahomedan or a Christian?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether qualifications being equal, seniority must always be given preference?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: If qualifications are equal seniority is given preference in matters of promotion but not in

matters of posting. There can be no question of preference in matters of posting.

Appointment of the First Physician and Teacher of Medicine in the Campbell Medical School.

*36. **Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Dr. Kabir Hossain has recently been transferred from Jalpaiguri and posted as the First Physician and Teacher of Medicine in the Campbell Medical School;

(*b*) the medical qualifications of Dr. Hossain;

(*c*) is it a fact that Dr. J. N. Aich, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.T.M., of London, was the Second Physician and a Teacher of Medicine in the said School at the time of the appointment of Dr. Hossain and is still holding the post;

(*d*) is it a fact that Dr. Aich is 9 years' senior to Dr. Hossain;

(*e*) is it a fact that Dr. Amulya Chakravarty, M.B., M.R.C.P., who is in charge of outdoor department and a Teacher of Physiology in the Campbell Medical School is also senior to Dr. Hossain; and

(*f*) if the answers to (*a*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons and principles on which the appointment of Dr. Hossain was made superseding the claims of Drs. Aich and Chakravarty?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: (*a*) There is no post known as the post of First Physician, Campbell Medical School. Khan Sahib Dr. Kabir Hossain has been transferred from Jalpaiguri and posted as Teacher of Medicine, Campbell Medical School.

(*b*) M.B., D.T.M. He was Teacher of Medicine and Materia Medica, Jackson Medical School, Jalpaiguri, for nearly 6 years.

(*c*) There is no such post as that of the Second Physician, Campbell Medical School. Dr. J. N. Aich was not Teacher of Medicine of that School at the time of the posting of Dr. Kabir Hossain nor is he holding any such post now.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) There is no officer of the name of Dr. Amulya Chakravarty in the Bengal Medical Service.

(*f*) Does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the year when Dr. Kabir Hossain joined the medical service and the year when Dr. J. N. Aich joined the service?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I do not remember that, but the whole object perhaps of this question is this who is senior? I can at once say that Dr. Aich is about 7 years' senior to Dr. Kabir Hossain.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that Dr. Aich, apart from seniority in service, holds a very distinguished foreign qualification, viz., M.R.C.P. of London, which Dr. Kabir Hossain does not?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Yes, he holds that degree.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that the Teacher of Medicine in the Campbell Medical School is ordinarily regarded as the First Physician?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Well, Sir, there are two teaching posts, the Teacher of Medicine and the Teacher of Materia Medica which latter is now being held by Dr. Aich. These two are important teaching posts in the institution but they are quite independent of each other. There is absolutely no idea of any subordination or superiority or inferiority. Now, postings are made according to necessity and according to the qualifications of the officers to be appointed. In this particular case the pay of the two posts also are not fixed. The pay is the grade pay of the officer appointed plus a certain allowance which varies, not with the posts, but with the period of services of the officer who is appointed there. So in that respect also there is absolutely no difference whatsoever. As I have already stated there is not the slightest idea of inferiority or superiority between the two posts and no idea of subordination. It has been stated that one is considered as the first physician and the other is considered as the second physician, this may be so. I have made a thorough enquiry into this matter, and I think it originates from the way in which the coolies and others designate these officers. That is because one is in charge of a particular Ward which is called the Woodburn Ward A and the other is in charge of a Ward which is called the Woodburn Ward B. But the number of beds is the same——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Just like First Munsif and Second Munsif.

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: That is exactly what I was going to say.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With regard to answer (*c*), is it a fact that Dr. Amulya Chakravarty had been for a long time a member of the Bengal Medical Service and that he has recently retired?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: So far as my information goes, it is not so. I made an enquiry into the matter and I have come to know that there is no such man as Dr. Amulya Chakravarty in the Bengal Medical Service.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that just now there may be none but that there was an officer——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I do not think, Dr. Sanyal, you can go into the whole history of the Bengal Medical Service men. All you are concerned with is whether he is now in service, and the Hon'ble Minister has contradicted that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that this Dr. Amulya Chakravarty has retired after the transfer of Dr. Kabir Hossain to the Campbell Medical School was made known?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I do not think so. If there had been any such officer, he must have retired long ago.

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: How many teachers are there in the Campbell Medical School?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: How many Moslem teachers there are in the Campbell Medical School?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: That is also difficult for me to say. There are only two Moslem officers including this one.

Elliot Bridge.

***37. Mr. ABDULLA-AL-MAHMOOD:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware—

(*i*) that the Elliot Bridge at Serajganj links up the two sides of the town and is the only passage for all kinds of traffic;

(*ii*) that it requires thorough overhauling at Serajganj without delay;

(*iii*) that the Chairman of the Municipality of Serajganj wrote to the Hon'ble Minister several letters proposing to make over the bridge to the Government for immediate repairs; and

(*iv*) that it would cause inconveniences to a large number of people of the locality and the public in general if the Elliot Bridge at Serajganj remains closed during the rainy season?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating to take any step in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

Police constables taken in Mymensingh in 1936 and 1937.

*38. **Mr. MONMOHAN DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total number of police constables (Bengal Police) taken in the Mymensingh Police line in the year 1936 and 1937; and

(*ii*) the number of them that belong to Scheduled Castes?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the minimum standard of the qualifications for the appointment in Bengal Police constabulary?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME (POLICE) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) 1936—71 and 1937—17.

(*ii*) Nil.

(*b*) The requirements are laid down in rule 833 (*f*) of Police Regulations, Bengal, Volume I, a copy of which is in the Library.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: With reference to answer (*a*)(*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no appointment has been made of any candidate of the scheduled castes?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I believe that suitable candidates were not available, but I can assure the hon'ble members that I will look into this and see that in future suitable candidates are appointed.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no appointment was made only because there was no suitable arrangement for food for the scheduled castes?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I do not think this is correct, but if it is so, I will see that something is done for it.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these are Bengalees?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice.

HUNGER-STRIKE.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin will make a certain statement.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I would like to inform the House that there are 68 prisoners in the Alipore Central Jail who are now on hunger-strike. They are all division III prisoners and they have not been convicted of any offence connected with terrorist crimes, and out of these practically 20 are being forcibly fed. None of them are in a serious condition. That is the information I want to give to the House.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: May I ask, Sir, what are the demand of these prisoners and on what issue they have gone on hunger-strike?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: They want that they should be given daily food at the rate of six annas per day which is practically that of division II prisoners.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Since when they have been on hunger-strike?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I think it is 11 days now.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: May I ask whether there is any Moslem prisoner amongst these 68?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order, that is not a proper question.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Why are they not being permitted to be division II prisoners?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Because, they do not fulfil the qualifications for division II.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: *Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased* to state if attempts have been made to dissuade them from going on hunger-strike?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There are two non-official Jail Visitors. One of them was requested to do so, but, he could not attend. The other gentleman had been there twice and tried to persuade them, and the jail authorities are also trying to persuade these people to give up hunger-strike; but they have taken quite a determined attitude, and some of them are even resisting when they are being forcibly fed.

Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if batches of prisoners are being sent to jail for one year each for the alleged offence that they have refused to take food for only one a day?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, that is not correct.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the relatives of these prisoners have been communicated with that they are on hunger-strike?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, I do not think so, not until their condition becomes serious.

Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: The Hon'ble Minister says that my statement is incorrect. I can give the names of seven prisoners who have been only this morning sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of one year each for refusing to take food, and the trials are being held inside the jail in contravention of the provisions of the Prisons Act.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That may be so. But the question is whether sentences have been passed on them.

THE BUDGET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL FOR 1938-39.

Budget Speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir a little over six months has elapsed since I presented my last Budget and as I rise to-day to present the Budget Estimates for 1938-39, I am glad that we now get back to normal practice: to Budget sessions

and the voting of supplies before the opening of the year to which they relate. The year which is now expiring was unusual in its budgetary arrangements owing to the change over from one constitution to another. A Governor's grant was made on 1st April 1937, and the Legislature was subsequently called upon to vote supplies for the whole year on a Budget presented towards the end of July and voted in August-September. A disadvantage that has flowed from this is that we have only had six months, instead of the usual twelve, in which to frame proposals and make a Budget for the ensuing year.

I will begin my statement with the good news that the actuals for 1936-37 are better than seemed possible two years ago or even a year ago. The House will remember that under the terms of the Niemeyer Settlement, while we would have been obliged to take a loan to cover any working deficit for 1936-37, should it have ended in one, any surplus would only have been written off as an incident of the cancellation of our debt to the Centre as it stood on 31st March, 1937. Our interest therefore was confined to the avoidance of a deficit, which would have meant starting on our regime of provincial autonomy with a debt on our hands. To sentiment and hell-interest alike, this would have been distasteful; and we may well congratulate ourselves on the fact that we have avoided it.

Hon'ble members will also be glad to learn that the improvement evident in 1936-37 gained such strength during the first half of the current year that, despite a set-back during the past few months, the revised estimates for 1937-38 are well above the estimates which I presented six months ago. I shall come to details later, but at this stage I should like to mention the two heads which have mostly contributed to the improvement. These are the jute export duty and income-tax. The former is likely to exceed our original estimate by 33 lakhs, and the latter, for which we estimated nothing at all, by 27½ lakhs. But I am giving no secrets away when I say that these figures would have been many lakhs higher but for the disturbing drop in trade figures that set in about two months ago. The case of income-tax is the most noticeable. As the House is aware, during the first five years of the constitution the amount of income-tax receipts assignable to the Provinces depends not merely on the yield of income-tax but also, and indeed mainly, on the yield of Railway earnings: we can get nothing unless the Railways prosper. Well, they did prosper in the first half of the year and, if the improvement had been maintained, we should have got about 40 lakhs from income-tax. But Railway earnings have fallen off so badly during the last two months that, instead of 40 lakhs, we shall only get 27½ lakhs. Our receipts from jute export duty would also have been higher if the improvement in jute exports evident in the first half of the year had been maintained. The deterioration in both cases is due to conditions outside Bengal and, indeed, outside India.

It is important for us to realise that our acquisition of an interest in jute exports, in the yield of income-tax and in the yield of Railway receipts has forged a further link between our financial fortunes and trade conditions in the world at large. The same process will be carried a step further when we come to acquire an interest in those other federal taxes mentioned in sections 137 and 140 of the Act which are assignable, in whole or in part, to the Provinces, and when we come to impose taxes of our own, such as sales taxes, whose yield in one degree or another will depend upon economic conditions at large. Provincial estimates have now to be framed against a wider background than hitherto.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, may I rise on a point of order? Is this a C. I. D. reporter who has been here?

Mr. SPEAKER: He is a vernacular shorthand reporter of the House who has been supplied by government.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Is he on the pay of the staff of the House. I think it is most objectionable that a C. I. D. reporter should be present at this meeting and it is a gross breach of the privileges of the House, and I think you should take this into account and the House are to take into account.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon'ble member does not know exactly what is the position. The reporters are all supplied by government

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Let us know the position since it has not been the anticipation of this House that a C. I. D. reporter will be present in this House. We want to know how to deal with this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall explain the position. We were in need of a Bengalee Shorthand writer. Then Government informed us that they will supply the entire reporting staff—Bengalee and English—and they are now being supplied accordingly.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: How are they employed?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not known to me just now.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I think it is an insult to the House for you to suggest that you did not enquire into the qualifications of the Reporters concerned, because if it is true that this man who was here was a C. I. D. Reporter, I should say, he is an intruder. He had no business to be here.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not an intruder because at present the reporting business is done by the Reporters who are supplied by Government. But I will certainly consult the leaders of the House if they should be on the staff of the Legislative Assembly or on the staff of Government. For the time being, I think, the matter might be dropped.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I am extremely thankful to you Sir.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: : The position should be made clear now. It is no question whether this officer has come in his capacity as an Official Reporter or not. Whatever be his capacity———

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Shame, shame.

Mr. SPEAKER: If an honourable gentleman puts a question it is no use disturbing him when he gives the answer, because, sometimes one part of a statement is qualified by the latter part. So let us have a full statement.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: This officer has not come in his capacity as a C. I. D. officer to take down any report whatsoever and therefore there is no question of any kind of insult to this House or to the members of this House

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Is he a member of the C.I.D. staff?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: May be so; that has nothing to do with this.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Certainly not.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Yes, a shameful thing.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have said that I will look into this matter myself and I hope there will be no more interruption to the proceedings at this stage. In view of the objection that has been raised, it is my duty as the Spokesman of the House to look into the matter. Let there by no more disturbance for the time being.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: But what steps will be taken?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will do it later on and announce it to the House.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: May I interrupt the House, Sir, for one second and say that no member of the C.I.D. staff should be admitted into this House until the matter has been thoroughly thrashed out? May I have your assurance on that point, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: My difficulty is this that unless we get the Bengalee staff ourselves we have to depend upon the Reporters who may be supplied by Government. So that, if you say Government should not send an officer who belongs to the Police, I will certainly make a request accordingly to that effect, if that is the opinion of the leaders of the various groups and parties in the House. But if in case it is not possible for a Bengalee shorthand writer to be found, the matter might have to be reconsidered by you.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May we know if we can bring one who is not in the pay of the Government or in the C.I.D. If it is your desire that Bengalee should be reported, I can get a Bengalee Reporter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that in a matter like this you should ask the opinion of the Speaker because that is purely an administrative matter. The Speaker has taken note of the matters that have been raised in this House and he will take necessary steps in the matter.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: That intruder has again come into the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not your business.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: It is a matter entirely for us. It is a question of the privilege of the House.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: It is a silly question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall be compelled to adjourn the House for some time to enable members to calm down, should there be any further interruptions of this character. This is a matter entirely for the Speaker to decide—I mean the way in which visitors are accommodated. But if there is any complaint from any member from any section of the House, I am prepared to hear his complaint in my chamber. For the time being, I hope that the matter will be dropped, and the Hon'ble Mr. Sarker will be allowed to proceed with his speech.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. The presence of a particular man has been objected to by some members of this House, but Government apparently insist on sending this particular man from the floor of this House to some other part of this Chamber.

Might I enquire whether it is consistent with the dignity and decorum of this House?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The Hon'ble Finance Minister is in possession of the House. So far as the part referred to by you is concerned, it is really no part of the House in the correct sense.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is not the Hon'ble Home Minister in charge of the C.I.D. as well?

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Undoubtedly!

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: What a silly question?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Might I enquire whether you have issued any visitor's card to—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Dr. Sanyal, if you are really interested in a matter like this—I mean as to how visitors' cards are issued—I am quite willing to allow you the privilege of knowing it, though I would not ordinarily do so, if you please see me in my chamber. But I think that the question as to who is in the Visitors' Gallery is a matter entirely within my discretion and not a matter to be raised in this House by you or any other member.

The Hon'ble Mr. Sarker will now please proceed with his budget speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Is there anything that one can offer in explanation of the recent set-back? The world recovery that began in 1934 showed signs of slackening outside India through the greater part of 1937, and by the third quarter of the year a definite falling-off was noticeable, both in the prices of stock exchange securities and in commodity prices. A reflection of this tendency was evident in India too, though it came later. The Calcutta index number of wholesale prices for commodities as a whole, which rose from 94 in December 1936 to 105 in August 1937, dropped back to 102 in December 1937; while particular commodities such as cereals, pulses, tea, raw jute, cotton manufactures and raw cotton registered an even greater decline. Figures of export have fallen during the last few months. Import figures have not yet dropped, but if the decline in exports continues, an adverse reaction in imports is likely to follow. The world causes that have been at work to produce this set-back are doubtless many and various; but it is safe, I think, to say that conditions in America have had a great deal to do with it and that an improvement in that country would offer the best promise of improvement in India. The slump in the American cotton market, due mainly to a bumper crop, certainly accounts for a large part of the

recent falling-off in traffic on the Railways, which would otherwise have been moving the Indian crop to the ports for export. The drop in our jute exports must also be largely due to stagnation in America: for that country takes more than half of our hessian products.

Let us hope that the set-back is only a passing phase and that further deterioration will soon be checked. If America can stage an improvement during the next few months, we shall almost certainly benefit by it in India. As one of the requisites of this improvement appears to be the mere settling of a quarrel between the Administration on the one hand and big business on the other, the position should not be hopeless. While I refuse to be pessimistic, it is obvious that we must budget with caution. In my estimate of revenue receipts for the ensuing year I have assumed that the decline will soon be arrested, but I have not presumed to anticipate a recovery of world markets to the level at which they stood in the earlier half of this year.

It is customary, Sir, in presenting the Budget to review the accounts of three years—the year for which the accounts have been closed; the year which is expiring but for which only revised estimates are available; and the ensuing year for which budget estimates are presented. I would, however, like to depart from this customary practice for once in regard to the year 1936-37 for which accounts have been closed. I have already said all that I want to say about the accounts for that year, namely, that the forecast of a deficit of about 45 lakhs on the year's working has fortunately proved incorrect. I shall now proceed to a review of the accounts of only two years—the current or the first year—although, strictly speaking, from the point of view of framing the Budget, not a complete year, of provincial autonomy, and the ensuing year, which I may call the first normal year of provincial autonomy.

According to the original estimate the year 1937-38 was to start with an opening balance of 98 lakhs and end with a closing balance of 1 crore and 38 lakhs. The revised estimate places the opening balance at 1 crore 6 lakhs and the closing balance at 1 crore 91 lakhs. This improvement by 53 lakhs is the net result of the following: an increase of 8 lakhs in the opening balance; an increase of 88 lakhs in our revenue receipts; a decrease of 14 lakhs in our expenditure on revenue account; and a decrease of nearly 57 lakhs in the balance outside the revenue account, that is to say, in the working of the Capital and Debt Deposit section of the Budget. I will now give a brief explanation of each of these changes.

The opening balance, as I observed in my last Budget speech, represents the amount which was to be given to us by the Government of India in order to enable us to meet certain liabilities. Their description will be found at the foot of page 2 of the Civil Budget Estimate.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. On the last occasion when the Hon'ble Finance Minister referred to pages in the Budget Estimates, which were not before us——

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I am sorry, Sir. I withdraw those words.

This amount was expected to be 98 lakhs, but when the accounts for 1936-37 were closed, it was found to be 106 lakhs. The improvement of 8 lakhs occurred mostly in the figures of subvention from the Central Road Development Account and the figures of the Deposit Account of the grant for development and improvement of rural areas. In other words, we spent less out of these accounts in 1936-37 than was expected.

The increase of 88 lakhs in revenue receipts is mostly due to an increase of 33½ lakhs under "Jute duty", 27 ½ lakhs under "Income-tax", 12 lakhs under "Land Revenue", 17 lakhs under "Excise", 3 lakhs under "Electricity Duty" and 3 lakhs under "Civil Works", offset in part by a fall of 11 lakhs under "Stamps". The increase under "Jute duty" is due to general improvement in the trade. As I have already explained, when the Budget was framed it was not expected that any share out of income-tax receipts would be available for distribution to the provinces; but it has been ascertained on recent advice from the Government of India that we may expect 27½ lakhs under this head in the current year. The increase under "Civil Works" is due to certain abnormal receipts while the increase under the remaining heads is due to improvement of economic conditions. The decline under "Stamps" is explained by a drop of 19 lakhs under "Court-fees" compensated by an improvement of 8 lakhs under "Non-Judicial". The causes of the decline under "Court-fees" are under investigation, but it seems probable that the drop is mostly due to the working of the Debt Conciliation Boards and consequent reduction in civil litigation.

The reduction of 14 lakhs in expenditure on revenue account is the net effect of excesses and savings spread over a large number of heads, the details of which are furnished in the Red Book which will be supplied later on. I shall confine myself to the more important variations. Savings of nearly 4 lakhs occur under "Land Revenue" mainly as a result of abandonment of Revisional Settlement operations as desired by the Assembly. There is a decrease of over 2 lakhs under "Irrigation" owing to non-establishment of the Waterways Board. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURY: "Hear, hear".) The Police Budget shows a saving of over 3 lakhs owing to retrenchment, and more than 2 lakhs have been saved under "Jails" owing to the closure of Deoli Jail (cries of "Hear, hear") and a general decrease in jail population. The release of detenus accounts for a reduction of nearly 2 lakhs under "Miscellaneous." A decrease of about 6 lakhs under "Civil

Works" is attributable to smaller expenditure on Road Development Works and other original works owing to late voting of the Budget and other causes. On the other hand there is an increase of nearly 5 lakhs under "General Administration" as a result of legislation relating to the emoluments of Ministers and of members of the Legislature which was passed after the presentation of the Budget.

The deficit in that section of the Budget which is outside the revenue account is due to transactions recorded under the head "Cash Balance Investment Account." A word of explanation is needed in regard to these transactions. Under the new banking and accounting arrangements we have to maintain a minimum balance of 25 lakhs with the Reserve Bank and, if our balance falls below this limit, penal interest is leviable. Any surplus over this figure we are, however, free to invest. So we have to watch our bank balance carefully and see, on the one hand, that it does not fall below the prescribed minimum and on the other, that it does not remain at a substantially higher level than the minimum without being profitably invested. The "Cash Balance Investment Account" is intended to exhibit temporary investments of our surplus balance. We have been investing our surplus funds in Government of India 3 months' Treasury Bills. The amounts paid out for the purchase of these are shown as disbursements and, when the Bills mature, the same amounts are shown as receipts in this Account. The interest realised is credited to the Revenue head "XX—Interest." The reason for the decrease of 57 lakhs in the balance outside the revenue account is simply this: that Treasury Bills to the value of nearly 70 lakhs have been purchased in the closing months of the current year and will not mature until next year. We started making these investments in July, and the interest realised up to the 31st March will amount to nineteen thousand rupees.

The revised estimate of a closing balance of 1 crore 91 lakhs for 1937-38 is made up as follows:—

Forty-nine lakhs representing the minimum balance to be kept in the Reserve Bank and Treasuries;

Twenty-eight lakhs representing the unspent balance of the Subvention of 43 lakhs for Road Development work;

One crore and 14 lakhs representing the amount available for general purposes.

There are three items outside this closing balance, viz., 33¼ lakhs worth of securities originally belonging to the Official Assignee but since appropriated by Government; 1 lakh worth of securities of the Steam Boiler Fund, appropriated by Government on provincialisation of that Fund; and 70 lakhs worth of Treasury Bills.

I now turn to the estimate for the coming year.

I place our total revenue in 1938-39 at 13 crores 13 lakhs. This is 30 lakhs below the expected revenue in the current year. But the real decrease is greater still. Owing to a change in accounting procedure dictated by the Auditor-General, interest on irrigation capital outlay is now to be credited under "XX—Interest" instead of being deducted as hitherto from the expenditure shown under "22—Interest." The result is an increase of 22½ lakhs on both sides of the Budget. The real drop in receipts below the Revised for the current year is therefore 52½ lakhs.

The decrease is made up of a number of small increases to a total of about 10 lakhs the details of which will be given in the Red Book which will be supplied to you, counter-balanced by a fall of nearly 63 lakhs under our main heads of revenue. Of this fall of 63 lakhs, 19 lakhs reflect the recent set-back in world markets; on account of which, and in consultation with the Government of India, I have placed our receipts from jute duty 17 lakhs lower, and our receipts from income-tax 2 lakhs lower, than in 1937-38. A further 13 lakhs out of the 63 is accounted for by a drop under "Land Revenue", not because I estimate that collections will deteriorate, but because the amount of arrears to be collected has been greatly reduced and recoveries on account of settlement operations will also be less as recoveries are almost complete in the case of old settlement operations and no new ones have been undertaken.

There is a decline of 4 lakhs under Excise because some large refunds are due to be made and because it is anticipated that, owing to the move for the introduction of prohibition in certain localities, the upward tendency of excise receipts in recent years will be arrested. Finally, there are declines of 7 lakhs under "Stamps" and 19 lakhs under "Other Taxes and Duties." The reason for these is that the taxation measures relating to Stamps, Court-fees, Amusements Tax, Electricity Duty and Tobacco Sales Licensing Fees which were passed in 1935 are due to expire on various dates between June and the end of August 1938. A Bill to continue all of these measures except that relating to Tobacco is on the Agenda of the current session. I trust that it will be passed, but for budgeting purposes I have not presumed to anticipate the decision of the Legislature.

I now turn to our proposals for expenditure. I place our total expenditure for the coming year at 13¼ crores—(voted 11 crores 27 lakhs and charged 1 crore 97 lakhs)—which is 1¼ crores more than the Revised Estimate for the current year. Out of this, about 22½ lakhs is accounted for by the change in classification of Interest charges on Irrigation Capital outlay to which I have already referred. The balance of about a crore represents expenditure on new schemes for which provision has been included in the Budget. In my last Budget speech,

I stressed the necessity of viewing our problems against a human background and observed that our aim was to resurrect the average man, who in this predominantly agricultural country, is the cultivator. In the forefront of a policy and programme directed towards this endeavour, I placed the relief of rural indebtedness, the spread of primary education, and the stimulation of prices of agricultural commodities through improved methods of production and better marketing facilities. Each of these objectives has secured our careful attention and definite steps have been taken towards their realisation within a reasonable period of time.

As the first line of defence against further deterioration of the condition of our agriculturists, the idea of scaling down their accumulated debts through a net-work of Debt Conciliation Boards has been vigorously pursued. Since our assumption of office 1,631 such boards have been created and it is proposed to create over 2,000 new boards next year. The total expenditure on debt conciliation in 1938-39 has been raised to over 24½ lakhs. This will enable a board to function in almost every union in the Province and relief will thus be brought practically to the door of every villager.

Closely linked with this subject is the problem of providing proper credit facilities for the requirements of cultivators, as the scaling down of debts is but an emergency measure which needs to be supplemented by some permanent schemes for meeting the normal requirements of agricultural credit. The success of the scheme of debt conciliation is materially dependent on the presence of facilities such as would ensure regular payment of the composed debts by settled instalments. The expansion of co-operative credit organisation is considered in the present circumstances to be the readiest and most effective means of providing such facilities because by virtue of their direct contact with the borrowers such organisations would act as a deterrent against unproductive borrowing and thus prevent the agriculturists from relapsing into a state of chronic indebtedness. An additional 2½ lakhs has been provided in next year's Budget for placing the co-operative movement on a more satisfactory basis. The Co-operative Department will be thoroughly reorganised and proper training will be provided for officers and workers so that the maximum of benefit may result from their endeavours. It is proposed that two officers of the Department will be deputed to Denmark and other countries in order to study the practical working of the co-operative movement in places where it has met with the largest measure of success.

Government are aware that the security worth of land has been adversely affected by the recent depression as well as by the feeling of uncertainty due to recent legislative enactments affecting rural credit and that the altered circumstances may make it necessary to set up distinct types of credit machinery in the rural areas providing loans against the security of crops and other moveable stocks. I may inform

the House that the entire question of providing rural credit facilities through suitable organisations is engaging the earnest attention of the Government.

With regard to the spread of free primary education, which is an item of outstanding importance in our programme for the improvement of the human material, several districts have decided to utilise the provisions of the Bengal Primary Education Act with a view to make primary education free and compulsory for the children in their respective areas. Already from the 1st of April 1937, a primary education cess is being levied and collected in the district of Mymensingh. The Education Board of the district have, after a careful survey of the primary educational needs of the district, come to the conclusion that it will require 2,600 primary schools, of which 1,700 have already been brought into existence. From the beginning of the next year, it is proposed to introduce a similar cess in three more districts; and applications from seven further districts are now under the consideration of Government. By way of supplementing such laudable local efforts a provision of 5 lakhs has been made in next year's Budget for the improvement of primary education in addition to the normal expenditure provided for under this head. With a view to improve the quality of teaching in such schools, steps have been taken to provide trained teachers for the institutions already started or due to be started soon in the aforementioned four districts. Two schemes have been formulated for the training of teachers for primary schools. One is to train a certain number of teachers under the auspices of the Visva Bharati, Bolpur, and the other is to train teachers on a much larger scale by attaching training classes to high schools. The ultimate expenditure involved in the first scheme is 22 thousand, while the second scheme is estimated to cost over 18½ lakhs of rupees. The Budget includes 78 thousand for the first year's expenditure for both these schemes. In order to ensure that the most up-to-date improvements in the system of primary education may be made known to these teachers, it has been proposed to depute three officers of the Education Department to study the methods of primary education in foreign countries, and a provision of 10 thousand has been included for the purpose in next year's Budget.

While on this subject, I may mention that the increased provision under Primary Education does not mean that the needs of University and Secondary education have been neglected. On the contrary, attempts have been made to meet their growing demands as far as possible. A comprehensive survey of the needs of the Calcutta and Dacca Universities was recently made in consultation with those bodies, and our Budget for next year includes provision in full (including an additional 29 thousand for the Dacca University) not only to meet immediate needs but also to cover their needs for some time to come. That notable centre of culture—the University of Visva Bharati at

Bolpur, applied rather late in the year for a Government grant.' A provision of 6½ thousand has, however, been made in aid of its various educational activities, pending further examination of its proposals. Additional grants of over a lakh have been provided for non-Government arts colleges, and a special additional grant of 4 thousand for colleges under the Dacca Board of Education. About 1½ lakhs has been provided for additional grants to non-Government secondary schools and 70 thousand for additional grants to madrasahs.

The requirements of female education, both Collegiate and Secondary, have also been kept in view. Provision has been included for a Purdah College for girls, the building for which is estimated to cost 5 lakhs. Another scheme for which provision has been made relates to the adaptation of the Christ Church buildings as an extension of the Bethune College at an ultimate cost of about 1 lakh. Over 70 thousand has been provided for additional grants to girls' schools and 5 thousand for additional grants to junior madrasahs for girls. A capital grant of 10 thousand has been provided for the Nepali girls' school at Darjeeling and over 30 thousand has been provided in furtherance of the physical education programme in girls' schools and colleges.

In regard to agriculture, the provisions made in the next year's Budget form the initial steps of a policy to improve the quality and yield of the crops through better and more scientific methods of cultivation. In as much as research, demonstration and propaganda constitute the fundamental basis of a planned attack on our agricultural problems, special attention has been devoted to these in the allotments made. Provision has been made for the establishment of an Agricultural Institute at Dacca which will be equipped in such a way as to provide the most up-to-date training in the theory and practice of agriculture and to undertake allied research work. The idea behind such a central institution is mainly to ensure the supply of an adequate number of trained men such as will be required by the Agriculture Department in carrying out its schemes of agricultural improvement. The Institute will carry on both research and training and the results of research will be tested under actual working conditions in outlying agricultural farms. Pending the establishment of the Agricultural Institute, provision has been made for imparting agricultural training to six agricultural graduates with a view to making them qualified for employment in the Subordinate Agricultural Service. Provision of 16 thousand has been made for establishing Union Board farms for demonstration of farming methods in villages and 39 thousand has been provided for a District agricultural farm at Midnapore. Cultivators will be encouraged to grow remunerative crops recommended by the Agriculture Department and small subsidies will be granted to reward them for their pioneering work. A sum of 2 thousand has been provided for this purpose in the Budget. Six thousand has been provided

for award of prizes at exhibitions and 2 thousand for subsidising seed stores where they are not organised by Government. A provision of 6 thousand has been included for a Propaganda Officer. The demonstration grant of the Department has been raised by 12 thousand and provision has been made for the appointment of ten additional demonstrators.

Regarding the stimulation of prices of agricultural products, I need hardly reiterate the observation which I made on the last occasion that it is beyond the power of the Provincial Government to adjust such factors as currency, credit and tariff which may directly affect the level of prices. Even so, an attempt has been made, within whatever limited scope is available to us, to give an impetus to the prevailing prices by instituting measures with a view to providing better facilities for marketing. Two important schemes have been formulated in this connection and included in the next year's Budget. One is the scheme for taking, at a cost of 25 thousand, the necessary preliminary steps in connection with the establishment of regulated markets for jute on the lines of such markets organised for cotton in Berar, and the other is an egg grading scheme involving an expenditure of 6 thousand.

In regard to jute, in particular, two special provisions have been made in addition to the preliminary steps for the establishment of regulated markets. One is a lump provision of 1 lakh for a jute census. Such a census constitutes the first and most essential preliminary to an effective regulation of the crop which is necessary to secure a better adjustment of supply to demand and thus ensure a fair price to the cultivator. It is also calculated to form the basis on which it should be possible to prepare scientific and dependable forecasts of the crop. The other provision is one of ½ lakh for jute restriction propaganda, which it is considered necessary to continue in the ensuing season for avoiding the likelihood of over-production.

Having regard to the fact that the improvement of agriculture is materially dependent on the improvement of livestock, special provisions have been made on this account in the next year's Budget. Ten thousand has been provided for opening a Dairy section at the Dacca Farm and additional staff has been provided for animal husbandry work.

It is hardly necessary to emphasise that Government is anxious that industrial activities in the Province should be expanded and stimulated. In large scale industry, however, the scope for direct action by Government is very limited and we have mainly to depend on private enterprise. But the ways in which Government might within those limits impart a stimulus to large industries are being carefully considered, and the Hon'ble Minister in charge has already prepared a scheme specially for encouraging the small industries. The scheme, whose full operation will take three or four years, is being partially given effect to in the coming year, and I will narrate the main provisions which we have made in this connection. Twenty thousand has been provided for undertaking an

expert enquiry into the possibilities of extension of industries on a large scale. Provision has been made for the establishment of a scientific Advisory Council which will co-ordinate the results of the researches in the various technical and research institutes, suggest new lines of research and advise Government in regard to scientific schemes and proposals mooted by the institutes. As a part of Government's programme, it is also proposed to establish an Industrial Intelligence Branch for the purpose of collecting information regarding the various aspects of industrial activity in the province.

Existing industrial organisations are to be expanded and reorganised and provision has been included for new lines of development. Thus, there is a provision of 25 thousand for reorganisation of the Bengal Tanning Institute, of 63 thousand for extension of the Dye House at the Government Weaving Institute at Serampore and of 18 thousand for extension of the existing power-driven cotton weaving plant at the same place. It is proposed to reorganise the Silk Technological Institute at Berhampore at a cost of 61 thousand. Provision is made for the reorganisation of eight peripatetic weaving schools at a cost of 13 thousand and for the continuance of 28 industrial demonstration parties at a cost of about a lakh. Ten thousand is provided for increased grants-in-aid to technical and industrial schools. With a view to stimulate expansion in new directions, 12 thousand is provided for research and training in varnishes, enamels, lacquers, japans, oil colours, paints and printers' ink and 3 thousand for the establishment of a Research Section in the Dyeing Department of the Government Weaving Institute at Serampore. Provision is made for two Artist designers for the evolution of new and attractive designs and patterns of woven goods likely to command ready sale. Twenty-five thousand is provided for coir spinning and weaving demonstration parties and 7 thousand for demonstration of improved methods of silk reeling. With a view to stimulate the consumption of manufactured jute in the Province, it is proposed to establish a model Jute Weaving Institute at a cost of 4 thousand and to instal a power-driven jute weaving plant at the Weaving Institute, Serampore, at a cost of 45 thousand. Four thousand is provided for continuing the post of the Marketing and Publicity Officer during the coming year. A scheme for the establishment of a Central Institute of Technology and expansion of technical schools in districts is still under examination.

Government have given careful consideration to the immense advantage that would be likely to accrue to the industrial development of the Province from a supply of cheap electrical energy, and a provision has accordingly been made in the Budget for undertaking an enquiry into the possibilities of generating and supplying electrical power on an extensive scale and distributing the same at a moderate charge throughout the countryside. If and when this enquiry is followed by the formulation of a fruitful scheme, it will doubtless mark a great step forward in the process of stimulating the industrial activities of the Province.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: In the Greek calends.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: To popularise the goods turned out by the industries of this Province it has been decided to organise at a cost of 50 thousand an Industrial and Commercial Museum where contact may be established between the producers and the commercial houses which have dealings with markets in and outside the Province. Provision has also been made for moving exhibitions to carry on propaganda for popularising indigenous goods and to propagate knowledge as to what goods are actually domestically available. Twenty thousand has been provided for participation in industrial exhibitions which have an important educative value. Steps have also been taken to extend Government patronage to the industries of the Province in the matter of purchasing stores for their departmental requirements.

The problem of improving the public health of the Province has to be tackled in a systematic way and the provisions in next year's Budget have been made with that end in view. The first and foremost need in rural areas is the need for an adequate supply of good drinking water. The grant for rural water supply has accordingly been raised from 2 to 7½ lakhs and another 2½ lakhs has been provided on a contributory basis. Government have, however, decided to formulate a comprehensive scheme of rural water supply for the entire province and, in order that the same may be speedily brought into operation, it has been proposed to establish a rural water supply subdivision under the Chief Engineer, Public Health, which will draw up a comprehensive programme in consultation with local authorities, and a provision of 6 thousand has been included in the Budget for this purpose

The next most important public health problem in this Province is the problem of malaria and with a view to fight this scourge the grant for free distribution of quinine has been raised from 1½ lakhs to 4 lakhs. In addition to the usual provision of 80 thousand for this purpose, a lump provision of 2½ lakhs has been made for anti-malaria schemes. About 40 thousand has been provided for anti-Ludlowm survey and control measures in and around Calcutta

For maternity and child welfare work, it is proposed to increase the grant from 28 to 35 thousand and to provide a lady superintendent and staff at an ultimate cost of 30 thousand. A capital grant of 50 thousand is proposed for the Ram Krishna Sishumangal Prathisthan in furtherance of their child welfare activities. A grant of one thousand is provided for the Servants of Humanity Society for a similar purpose.

With a view to making an effective drive against the problem of tuberculosis Government have decided to establish a climatic sanitarium for tubercular patients, and for this purpose an initial expenditure of 1 lakh has been provided in next year's Budget. A grant of 1 lakh 36 thousand is proposed for the Jadavpur Hospital which is doing such

conspicuously good work in giving relief to victims of tuberculosis. Fifteen thousand has been provided as grants to Sadar hospitals for providing better treatment and nourishment to tuberculosis patients the ultimate cost of which will come up to 75 thousand. Provision has been made for a course of training in tuberculosis work for Medical and Health Officers at an ultimate cost of 25 thousand. Thirty-three thousand has been provided for a tuberculosis survey which is expected to furnish useful materials for a comprehensive scheme of action against this terrible scourge. For necessary clinics in this connection it is hoped that sufficient contributions will be available from the fund started by Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow.

Another matter which is engaging the anxious attention of Government is the control of leprosy, and a lump provision of 50 thousand has been included in the Budget for taking necessary measures in this direction.

Ten thousand has been provided for the establishment of Union Board dispensaries and 3 lakhs for the general improvement of Sadar hospitals.

To encourage research work 10 thousand has been provided for a grant to the Indian Institute of Medical Research.

Thirty thousand has been provided for the creation of a model health unit where training will be given in improved and up-to-date methods of health welfare work. Grants are also proposed for the Indian Red Cross Society for the establishment of a training school for health welfare workers. Thirty-eight thousand has been provided for improvement of rural sanitation and 1½ lakhs for the reorganisation of rural public health units. Government propose to make medical aid available throughout the Province in a comprehensive manner by the establishment of a net-work of rural treatment centres. The provision for next year represents only the initial instalment of expenditure on this scheme which will entail a considerably large ultimate cost

In regard to the Irrigation Budget I may mention that in the current year we are spending 57 thousand on irrigation surveys including a survey of the Hooghly-Howrah area and the survey of what is known as the More Project in the Birbhum district. These surveys are progressing and schemes are likely to emerge costing about 2½ crores each. In the Budget for next year we almost treble our expenditure on irrigation surveys and the like and provide for the carrying out of five small irrigation schemes in the district of Midnapore, Bankura, Malda, Pabna and Nadia.

I may, in this connection, make a few observations in regard to the future irrigational development of Bengal. In connection with the rates for the Damodar Canal project under the Bengal Development Act a controversy has arisen as to the amount of the rates. A

Committee was appointed for investigation of the grievances. The Committee has submitted its report which is now under consideration of the Government and I would not like to say anything which might anticipate the decision of Government. There is one aspect of the matter, however, which has a wider significance than merely local views about the merits or demerits of a particular scheme. Considering the huge cost of big irrigational schemes it must be obvious that in the present financial position of the Province it is not possible to meet the cost of such undertakings out of the general revenues. Additional taxation would be inevitable for the financing of such big irrigational projects. So far as my information goes, in the other Provinces also wherever big irrigation schemes have been started, rates for financing the schemes have had to be levied on those benefited by the projects. New taxation is always odious, but if we want the benefits of irrigational development on a large scale we must be prepared to be reconciled to such taxation. And the benefits flowing from the development of irrigation would undoubtedly be great and would have revolutionising consequences. In certain parts, at least, of Bengal, development of irrigation is a necessity for the very life and sustenance of the people. Central and West Bengal and some districts of North Bengal are the worst sufferers from the lack of irrigation. Expert opinion has pointed out that in most parts of Central and Western Bengal a continuous process of depopulation and deterioration of agriculture has set in The courses of rivers that materially contributed to the richness of the soil, health and wealth of the population have been deflected and most of them are to-day silted up, turning the neighbouring areas barren and uninhabitable. Marshes and fallows have taken the place of smiling fields and abodes of contented population have turned into veritable jungles with the result that to-day disease and death stalk the land Depopulation and physical breakdown due to malaria and decline in soil fertility have led to a progressive shrinkage in agriculture Statistics indicate that cultivated land in proportion to the total cultivable area and also the population per square mile have decreased in most of the districts in Central and Western Bengal. The problem in some districts in North Bengal is almost similar though not presenting the same state of decadence as in Central Bengal. The decadence could be successfully arrested only by the development of large scale irrigation schemes under the Bengal Development Act. But if after a scheme is started, controversy arises as to rates, there is naturally likely to be difficulty in raising loans for the financing of such projects of irrigation. I think therefore that the question should be thoroughly thrashed out before the House, and the House should pronounce its clear opinion on the controversial issues so that irrigational development projects may in future be taken in hand systematiacly and with confidence.

There is an increased provision of 21½ lakhs in the Civil Works Budget. Part of this is due to a more ambitious scheme of road development than we have hitherto been able to achieve. The subject of road and river communications is so important that I propose to reserve it for separate comments. Here I propose to deal with the more important building projects for which provision has been made. Three lakhs have been provided for executive offices and quarters, 1½ lakhs for judicial offices and quarters and 1 lakh for registration offices and quarters. The schemes for which provision has been made represent the most urgent among a very large number of pending projects which it was not possible to finance earlier on account of the prevailing financial stringency. One lakh has been provided for remunerative residential buildings, 1 lakh for police buildings, 3 lakhs for educational buildings, 4 lakhs for medical buildings and 2 lakhs for agricultural buildings. There is also a provision of 1 lakh for the construction of a separate building for the Bengal Legislative Council, the ultimate cost of which may exceed 15 lakhs according to present estimates (Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal: Oh! dear dear) which are now under the consideration of the Government.

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

I must now say a word about communications, road and river, since the development of these is so necessary to the welfare of the Province. As the House is aware, we have two sources of income which are earmarked for the development of road communications, each of which brings in about 14 lakhs a year. The first is the Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax Act, the bulk of the proceeds of which (after deducting 4½ lakhs payable to the Calcutta Corporation) is given to Municipalities and District Boards for their road schemes. The other is the Bengal share of the Central Petrol Fund. We are very behindhand in our expenditure of the latter, and we are not likely to receive any further monies from the Fund until we have spent the accumulations on account of previous years which were placed at our credit in our opening balance on the 1st April last. Out of a total assignment of 1 crore and 5 lakhs since the Fund was opened, the unspent balance on the 31st March 1936 was 43¼ lakhs. We budgeted in 1937-38 to spend 22¼ lakhs, but our actual expenditure for one reason or another is not likely to exceed 17 lakhs. We intend, however, to take measures to ensure that the programme of a 26 lakhs expenditure for which we have budgeted in 1938-39 is at least worked up to. A proposal recently submitted by the Chief Engineer for the entertainment of additional engineering staff to speed up the execution of these projects is under examination, and we shall, if necessary, employ additional staff. I trust that by the close of next year we shall have earned the right to receive from the Government

of India the two years' accumulation of our share of the Petrol Fund which will then be outstanding. For expeditious expenditure thereafter we shall have the advantage of proposals for a road building plan for the whole of Bengal which are about to reach Government from an officer who has for some time been making a special study of the matter. I may inform the House that the question of improved communications in the villages has also not been overlooked by the Government and a provision of 1½ lakhs has been made on this account in the next year's Budget.

With regard to river communications, we already have the plan of setting up the Waterways Board contemplated by the Bengal Waterways Act of 1934. We had hoped to constitute the Board during the current year. We now propose to constitute it in the coming year, and have provided in the Budget 2½ lakhs by way of grant to the Board

Provisions have been included in the Budget with special reference to the needs of Muslims and members of the Scheduled Castes. Special scholarships have been provided for encouraging the pursuit of general, technical and medical education by Muslim students involving an amount of 50 thousand and by students belonging to Scheduled Castes at a cost of 30 thousand. Eight thousand has been provided for the award of State scholarships to Muslims and members of the Scheduled Castes for higher study in foreign countries. Special stipends have been created for girls of backward classes

Among schemes intended to equip our students properly for their duties as citizens may be mentioned an increased grant of 3 thousand to the Bengal Bratachari Society and a provision of 2½ lakhs for youth welfare schemes. Among provisions made for certain institutions of public utility and cultural interest, mention may be made of the grants of 25 thousand to the Muslim Orphanage, 25 thousand to the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, 20 thousand for Labour Welfare organisations, 3 thousand to the Statistical Institute, 10 thousand to the Society for the Prevention of Blindness, 10 thousand to the Society for the Protection of Children and 5 thousand to the Girl Guides Association. In the General Administration budget will be found a provision of 1 lakh and 12 thousand for extra staff in the offices of District Officers and Subdivisional Officers. Work in these offices has increased by at least 50 per cent. since the last general enquiry into their staff requirements was made some 30 years ago whereas their present strength is only 12½ per cent. above the strength that was then considered necessary. The late Government were unable to cope with the situation owing to financial stringency. We placed an officer on special duty to study requirements on the spot, and this provision of 1 lakh 12 thousand is included on the basis of proposals recently received from him which we are about to examine in detail. He proposes certain measures of reorganisation, in other words, of constructive retrenchment,

by the help of which he considers that the case could be met by an increase of existing strength by about one-eighth at an ultimate cost of 1 lakh 66 thousand per annum, against an increase of about 30 per cent., costing about 3 times as much, which would have been admissible under the standards set up 30 years ago. I am glad to think that measures are now on foot to relieve the pressure under which our clerks in mufassal offices have been working. The Special Officer reports an alarming state of affairs in the offices in the matter of overcrowding, ill-furnishing and unsanitary conditions. These allegations will be looked into. Ameliorative measures for the improvement of Judicial offices include a provision of 22 thousand for the purchase of books for libraries in Civil and Sessions Courts and 25 thousand for improvement of the standard of furniture in these courts.

I want to say a few words about the problem of middle-class unemployment, which of all our problems is the most baffling one. As I said in my last Budget speech, the expansion of the beneficent activities of Government is calculated to create new avenues of employment but not to an extent which is likely to absorb any appreciable fraction of the vast number of unemployed among the educated young men of our Province As a matter of interest I may mention that our schemes of new expenditure for the coming year which have been worked down to full details are calculated to give employment to 270 more officers, 93 more technical assistants, 2,544 additional clerks, 35 additional typists and 2,280 peons and the like; making a total of 5,212. There are other schemes which are calculated to provide employment for an equal if not for a larger number of men. Thus, for instance, the scheme for training teachers for primary schools contemplates the ultimate employment of a large number of trained teachers for such institutions which are going to be established in several districts within a very short time. Again, the rural public health reorganisation scheme is calculated to provide employment for a large staff of medical men, health assistants and menials. If these are taken into account, I estimate that the number of new posts will come to about 10 thousand. This may be a small contribution to a large need but it has been worth achieving.

Another step which has been taken towards the solution of this highly complicated problem is provision for the appointment of a special Employment Adviser whose main duty will be to compile relevant data regarding the different avenues of employment in Bengal and the prospects of absorption of future entrants in each occupation and to indicate what training will be necessary to secure the qualification for such employment and where and at what cost this training can be obtained.

I am afraid that my review of the new expenditure, though confined to the more important items, has already taken up much of your time.

The details of the expenditure will be found in the Red Book which will be supplied later on. As to the principles and policies underlying the various schemes of expenditure and also those under contemplation, I refrain from making a detailed reference to these, as they will be discussed by my colleagues in the course of moving the demands for particular grants that fall within their respective departments. For the sake of ready reference, however, I have given a schedule (Appendix II) showing the major heads under which the Budget Estimates for 1938-39 register a very appreciable increase as compared with the Revised Estimates of the previous year.

I will pause here for a moment to give a brief resumé of the financial results of the working of the coming year according to the estimates now presented to the House. We expect to start the year with an opening balance of 1 crore 91 lakhs. Our Revenue Receipts are estimated at 13 crores 13 lakhs and our expenditure on Revenue Account has been placed at 13 crores 24 lakhs. This means that we have to draw upon the opening balance to the extent of 11 lakhs, and that our balance is accordingly reduced to 1 crore 80 lakhs. In the Capital and Debt Deposit Section of the Budget there is a net deficit of 5 lakhs on the year's working which further reduces our balance to 1 crore 75 lakhs—the figures shown as our closing balance in the Civil Budget Estimate which will be presented to you shortly. This is exclusive of the securities and investments details of which have been furnished on page 5 of that Civil Estimate. A summary in further explanation will be found in Appendix I of the printed copy of this statement.

Let me now make a few general observations on our financial position as disclosed by the working of the budget for 1938-39. It is not so prosperous as it might on first sight appear. The Budget for the coming year is really a deficit budget. As I have just stated, Expenditure on Revenue Account exceeds receipts on Revenue Account by 11 lakhs, which will be met by drawing upon the balance left on Revenue Account for 1937-38.

Another point of great importance is that the estimated large amount of closing balance for 1938-39 is not entirely a free balance, that is, not by any means a measure of our capacity for further expenditure. The estimated closing balance on both Revenue and Capital Account for 1938-39 is 1 crore 75 lakhs, which together with the value of our securities and investment makes a total balance of 2 crores 80 lakhs. But more than half of this is earmarked on various accounts as follows: 49 lakhs is earmarked on account of the minimum balance which we have to maintain with the Reserve Bank and in the treasuries; 5 lakhs will represent the balance of the amount given to us by the Government of India for expenditure on specified objects such as road development and development of industries; 63 lakhs represents the amount estimated to be left on our hands at the end of the year as a

result of the transactions under the Debt Deposit Section of the Budget; 10 lakhs, if the Famine Relief Fund Bill is passed, will be required for payment into the Famine Relief Fund. So the total of these amounts, namely 1 crore 27 lakhs, though forming part of the closing balance, should be left out of account in assessing our capacity for further expenditure.

In this connection I would like to remind the House of what I have already said about the working of the Debt Deposit Section of the Budget. This section is more or less a banking account where receipts and disbursements represent deposits and withdrawals in respect of a variety of non-Government funds such as the monies of municipal and other local bodies. We normally receive into these deposit accounts more than we pay out of them in the course of the year. The surplus is, however, not provincial revenue in the ordinary sense of the term nor is it available for general purposes. It is true that so long as we hold the money we may invest the surplus and earn some interest which comes into our revenue receipts but this is about all the pecuniary advantage that we can derive from this banking arrangement. Our estimates for the coming year place our receipts under the Debt Deposit heads at 16 crores 73 lakhs and our disbursements at 16 crores 80 lakhs. The latter figure includes 70 lakhs invested in short term Treasury Bills and by making allowance for this the surplus arising out of the transactions in the Debt Deposit Section in the coming year has been estimated at 63 lakhs.

A further point to remember is that the amount provided in the Budget does not in all cases represent our full liability in respect of new schemes for which provision has been made. I estimate that at least 50 lakhs would be necessary to fill the gap between the immediate and ultimate cost of the new schemes. If we deduct all these from 2 crores 80 lakhs, we are left with a balance of just over a crore; and if the Legislature will pass the Bill to continue four of the five taxation measures which are due to expire between June and September next, we shall get another 19 lakhs which would raise the balance to near about a crore and twenty lakhs. This crore and 20 lakhs is all that we shall have to assist us in the event of deterioration in our revenues, in future, or to draw upon for the purposes of expanding our schemes for national reconstruction. In an appendix to this statement of mine will be found figures for the last sixteen years which point to the conclusion that the range of oscillation of our revenues is about 4 crores, and that our revenue receipts now stand about midway: in other words that in the event of a bad depression our revenue may fall below its present level by 2 crores. I personally regard this contingency as sufficient justification for a closing balance of 1 crore and 20 lakhs and for trying to conserve it. If other justification is wanted, then I may point out that many of the new schemes which we have included in

the Budget are intended, if they prove successful, to be expanded and intensified. Measured against the future expenditure that we hope to build upon next year's foundations, a reserve of 1 crore and 20 lakhs is very far from being excessive.

What I have just said is only another way of saying that the time is near at hand when we shall have to find new revenues if we are to advance our programme beyond the mere beginnings of national reconstruction that we are fortunately able to finance at the moment from our existing resources. This is a fact which we have to face up to. Like other Provincial Governments, we are now engaged in examining available sources of new taxation, and have already discovered that one of the difficulties that lie ahead of us is to ascertain where the line has to be drawn between Federal and Provincial fields of taxation; for example, between Federal excises and Provincial sales taxes. I hope that there is going to be no friction, and that any points of controversy will soon be settled so that the Provinces may know exactly where they stand. In any new scheme of taxation that we may adopt, we shall of course be guided by the consideration that the burden is to be imposed on shoulders that are most capable of bearing it.

There is a persistent demand in this House, which is also reinforced by public opinion outside, for drastic retrenchment in governmental expenditure, for which, it is thought, there is still ample scope. This demand is only natural on the part of the representatives of the people on whose behalf it has always been maintained that the administrative machinery must be very economical and must be consistent with the means and circumstances of the people and the country, and I fully share their anxiety for economy and simplification of the administrative system. But the scope and implications of retrenchment should first be clearly realised. It is necessary, in the first place, to be alive to the distinction between retrenchment in the sense of mere "lopping-off" and in that of real economy in public expenditure. A drastic reduction in expenditure by means of a "Geddes" or "Swan" axe in times of acute economic crisis may be forced upon Governments as a matter of sheer necessity, which overrules considerations that in normal times would be allowed to prevail. A precipitous decline in public revenues during a severe depression may force a Government to effect severe cuts in administration and also postpone desirable expenditure in furtherance of nation-building services. But these reductions are by no means a reflection on the desirability of such expenditure in better times. In times of economic crisis the public are constrained to forego certain benefits because they cannot pay for them. In examining any scheme of retrenchment to-day we should be guided by considerations relevant to normal times. The cloud that darkened our horizon—the budgetary deficits caused by the economic crisis and Meston Settlement—has happily lifted. There is therefore no

reason to hamstring desirable expenditure, deprive society of many beneficent activities and place its public servants on ration diet. I trust the present demand for retrenchment is not a ban on such expenditure. This is not a time at which we are forced to undertake a policy of drastic "lopping-off" on a mere arithmetical basis in order to make ends meet. Nevertheless, I may assure hon'ble members that Government will always examine all possible sorces of wastage and extravagance in administration with a view to avoid them. In demands for retrenchment the stress generally is laid on two things—reduction in personnel and reduction in emoluments. But these though effective are, after all, negative methods and not always economical in the true sense.

There can also be a positive approach: real economy in the public service can, I believe, also be achieved by increasing the efficiency of the service. To employ a parallel, expenditure on a machine can be reduced by cutting down the fuel or the oil, but if you do that the machine will not produce such good results and will probably come to a standstill. True economy lies in so improving the machine itself that it will produce as good or better results on a smaller consumption of fuel and oil. This is what the present Government are aiming at and I may assure hon'ble members that we are fully alive to the need of a constructive policy of administrative economy and, within the limits imposed on our powers under the Government of India Act, shall strive our utmost to this end. At the same time it must be realised that a democratic scheme of Government, particularly in the initial stages, has to accommodate many fresh demands.

It will be recalled that the previous Government, compelled by the inadequacy of their revenue and the circumstances of the depression, effected drastic reduction in the cost of administration, particularly in regard to scales of salaries of the provincial services. I have, however, noticed that hon'ble members are often prone to criticise Government adversely on the score of their failure to implement all the recommendations of the Swan Committee. With a view to apprising them of the effect given to the recommendations of this Committee, I am arranging to issue a White Paper showing briefly the action taken by Government on each of the Swan Committee's recommendations. Every recommendation which was rejected or only partially accepted has now been re-examined by the department concerned under the direction of the Hon'ble Minister in charge and the results of that review will also be found in the White Paper. An experienced officer has also been appointed to ensure that all lines of possible economy including those remaining over from that review are vigorously pursued as well as to explore methods of preventing wastage and extravagance. I need not add that expenditure of a special nature such as that incurred in connection with detenus is obviously of a temporary nature and with the release of detenus this expenditure is bound to dwindle gradually, making all this money available for other expenditure.

In scrutinising the field of expenditure, one is apt to look upon the reduction in personnel and in the emoluments of those employed as being the two main heads of retrenchment. Under a developing democratic government, I am afraid, the tendency is all to the other side. The inevitable increase in the work of the administration in response to the popular demand for larger and new additional services naturally necessitates the employment of larger numbers to cope with the enlarged task. An example of this I have given in Appendix IV to the printed copy of this statement which shows how the enlargement of the legislature under the new constitution is going to result in an increased expenditure of more than 12 lakhs a year. It may be possible by a reorganisation of the system of administration to simplify it and thereby do the work with a smaller number. But the reorganisation of departments and the adoption of new systems with a view to secure economy calls for close study, expert advice, a period of trial in selected departments or areas, all of which take considerable time and cannot be done forthwith if we are to avoid serious dislocation of work. We have inherited an organisation that has been in existence for so long that it is impossible to overhaul it overnight.

As to the emoluments of public servants, a somewhat spectacular reduction in immediate expenditure can be effected only by a drastic cut in the salaries of existing public servants in the higher grades. But here we are confronted with the fact that any reduction in the emoluments of the members of the Imperial Services would require the sanction of the Secretary of State and is beyond our competence; while the salaries of officers in the provincial services on 1st April, 1937, are also protected under the Government of India Act. Apart from this protection, however, Government service is everywhere regarded as on a contractual basis and to impose a cut on our servants' salaries under prevailing conditions may shake their confidence, to the detriment of the efficiency of administration. In the event of an emergency and in that event only it would not be unfair to ask them to make a sacrifice and I am sure they would also be prepared to do so. But there is no such emergency at present to justify this course. On the other hand a reduction in salaries for new entrants will not immediately produce any large savings under this head. Again it must be remembered that though it may be possible to achieve some saving by further reduction in the emoluments of future entrants in the higher grades of the provincial services, this would probably be more than counterbalanced if the salaries of lower grade officers, whose numbers compared to higher grade officers are very large, are ever revised in an upward direction as several members of this House have already demanded.

In regard to future entrants to public services under the authority of the Provincial Government, their starting salaries have already been drastically curtailed and any further reduction in them will be hardly

desirable in view of the salaries which obtain for comparable services rendered in other walks of life. The question whether there is any reasonable scope for further reduction in the maximum salaries in the various grades is now under examination by Government. But in considering all questions of economy in administration there is one reflection which should never be put away: efficiency of administration cannot be sacrificed to economy, and particularly as we have just started on a changed Government we ought to do nothing that might impair the efficiency, strength or integrity of our public services. Strict economy must of course be our watchword in all the departments of the public service, for is not public money a trust to be administered with the utmost care? But in scaling down salaries we must take care to see that the rival ideals of economy and efficiency are never in fatal conflict. This is no plea for perpetuation of too liberal scales of pay. I plead only for a new outlook in which the value of arithmetical comparisons of expenditure will not be exaggerated.

Sir, as far as the formal part of presenting the ensuing year's budget estimate of receipts and expenditures is concerned, I have done. I have endeavoured to give not only a bird's eye view of the financial position but also the detailed implications of some of our financial commitments and projects. We have seen that there is room for guarded optimism; we know that there must be adequate precaution. But may I suggest that, where the problem of national reconstruction is as vast and complex as in Bengal, a budget should be something more than a mere question of arithmetic. It is not merely a task of tapping all possible sources of revenue or of equitable distribution over suitable heads of expenditure. Above everything it is a task of helping in the process of nation-building. Sir, solvency is but a phase in the fortunes of a nation. But it is the nationhood which we must emphasise. The best of budgets can only provide for financial soundness. It cannot provide for better human material, for greater national endurance, for higher ideals. These must come from the nation itself. The final responsibility for national prosperity must therefore be with the people, with all those in whom by reason of status or of attainment vests the leadership of the community.

May I also suggest that the time has come when we should revise our inherited ideas about wealth and prosperity. Time was when individual prosperity and accumulation of wealth was the end of individual endeavour. But to-day the tendency is to put the community before the individual. I do not wish to preach rank socialism or communism. But we cannot afford to ignore the fact that it is not an age for a few isolated prosperous men but for a fairly prosperous multitude. Wealth to-day has a wider connotation than the hoarded prosperity of a few millionaires. Nor can it be otherwise. If wealth still tended to accumulate in isolated crevices instead of spreading over the whole field, the reaction of a rapidly growing intelligentsia would

promptly revolt against such an inequitable distribution. By reason of our tradition and heritage such revolt may not necessarily be as violent as in some other countries. But as long as wealth leads to split up society into invidious classes, such revolt is not only logical, but it is inevitable.

Living in a machine age we must all be social and economic engineers, or at least try to understand and guide the forces that drive us. It will not do to cherish the old ideals of individual accumulation of wealth, ownership of land and possession of gilt-edged securities or large cash balances in the bank. Prosperity and proverty are not a matter of separate concern for the individual, for the country or for the group. We prosper or fall together in a world of increasing interdependence. A new ideal arises out of the spirit of service in which wealth must be spent in the multiplication of opportunities for the livelihood of the people. It calls for a certain spirit of adventure and boldness in investment, a throwing aside of narrow loyalties, traditions and prejudices, a widening of our horizon.

And unless we realise this, the writing on the wall is clear. If instead of the intelligent manipulation of forces for the general welfare, people strive for individual accumulation of wealth and groups strive against each other with narrow and selfish purposes, the end will be mutual destruction. The fate of other countries will overtake us. The overcrowding of professions and the prolonged privations of the vast masses engaged in agriculture and industry are a formidable threat to the very existence of ordered society. Along with this has to be considered the acute unemployment among the intelligentsia.

The less our graduates are able to find a natural expression in their chosen professions, the more will their energies concentrate on the realisation of political aims which promise by way of radical changes to assure them of a right to live and work. We have to bear in mind, the utter despair of thousands and thousands of parents who saved and slaved a lifetime to give their children an education only to see them in the end unemployed, very often broken in body and in spirit; (cries of 'oh, oh!') the impotent wrath and the slow demoralisation of promising young men and women, loaded with degrees and certificates, to whom society denies the opportunity to put to any use of their gifts and their knowledge. These we must remember always and endeavour to give a shape to things to come that will feed our hungry masses and ensure the welfare of all.

Government can but provide the machinery: the motive power must ultimately be supplied by the people. Indeed, it is in the will to prosper that prosperity lies and no nation can be spoon-fed into prosperity by the most benevolent of governments. There are many

spheres where government can help only in an indirect way and where the activities of the people taken in the aggregate count for much.

Such being the case, Sir, may I suggest that it is beyond the powers of even the most prudent of Finance Ministers to do more than provide the means with which the nation can commence the journey towards reconstruction and prosperity? To elevate society, to improve the human material, to rouse the masses to a sense of intolerance of their present condition, in short to set the forces that make for progress in motion, is a duty that must finally devolve on the society itself. We can but point to the road. If further taxation is necessary, we must be prepared courageously to impose it. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: "Hear, hear"!) If further expenditure is considered desirable we must not spare our revenue. If by invoking our legislative powers we can find a way out of our difficulties, we must be prepared boldly to do so. But in the last analysis the urge must not lie with Government but with the people.

Sir, allow me here to digress into what might appear to be an extraneous matter but what is, in my opinion, a vitally important issue. For any scheme of broad-based national reconstruction the most important force is public opinion. A nation must ultimately respond to the trends of popular opinion. This is where the importance of educating popular opinion is obvious. If we fritter away our energies in a profitless and unnecessarily carping criticism of the existing order of things it in no way ensures progress. Criticism is by no means an antithesis to co-operation. What is necessary is the desire to find the greatest common factor of national prosperity. The chief requisite is co-operation—not abject submission to an imposed system but an intelligent participation in a common and great ideal. Viewed from this angle there would appear to be very little difference between the creed of one party and the principles of another. After all, all political parties must ultimately be based on the principles of national advancement. And reduced to fundamentals national advancement must hinge around certain broad issues. What political party does not aspire to improve the lot of the poorer masses, to lift the poor cultivator out of his tragic fatalism into a livelier and better appreciation of his opportunities, to infuse the ray of hope where there now broods the darkness of despair? If all parties have this in common, I venture to hope that, whatever our individual dogmas or creeds, we can make a common cause of humanity.

With these remarks, Sir, I beg to present the Budget Estimates for the year 1938-39.

I thank the members of this House for the patient hearing that they have given me. (Cheers from Ministerial Benches.)

(Cries of "Bande Mataram" from Congress Benches.)

APPENDIX I.

Summary of the financial position of the Government of Bengal in 1937-38 and 1938-39.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Receipts.

		Revised, 1937-38.	Budget, 1938-39.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening Balance	97,78	1,05,77	1,90,84*
Revenue Receipts	12,55,03	13,42,50	13,12,73
Capital Receipts	..	..	..
Receipts from Debt, Deposits, etc. ..	9,98,48	15,46,74	16,72,96
	23,51,29	29,95,01	31,76,53

Expenditure.

Revenue Expenditure	12,21,05	12,06,74	13,24,27
Capital Expenditure	12,30	5	−2,98
Expenditure on Debt, Deposits, etc. ..	9,79,98	15,97,38	16,80,26
Closing Balance	1,37,96	1,90,84*	1,74,08*
	23,51,29	29,95,01	31,76,53

Net Result.

Surplus+ / Deficit− On revenue account ..	+ 33,98	+1,35,76	−11,54
Surplus+ / Deficit− Outside revenue account ..	+6,20	−50,69	−4,32
Total Surplus+ / Deficit− Excluding opening balance	+40,18	+85,07	−15,86

*Excludes—

(a) 33,53 on account of securities of the Official Assignee.

(b) 1,00 for securities of the Steam Boiler Fund.

(c) 70,00 on account of investment in Treasury Bills.

APPENDIX II.

Statement showing the distribution of increased expenditure in 1938-39.

[Figures are in thousands.]

	Revised, 1937-38.	Budget, 1938-39.	Increase.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Forest	15,44	17,16	1,72
Irrigation	13,62	20,86	7,24
Debt Conciliation	12,48	24,63	12,15
Police	2,24,48	2,25,55	1,07
Education—General	1,26,06	1,42,66	16,60
Medical	52,56	58,92	6,36
Public Health	32,79	46,71	13,92
Agriculture	11,59	16,27	4,68
Co-operation	12,35	14,74	2,39
Industries	16,18	20,64	4,46
Civil Works	1,25,30	1,46,75	21,45
Superannuation allowances and pensions ..	92,65	95,83	3,18
Commutation of pensions	9,06	11,00	1,94
Recruitment of a larger number of Bengal Civil Service and Bengal Junior Civil Service Officers	..	1,00	1,00
Reorganisation of the establishments of Commissioners' Offices, District and Sub-divisional Offices	..	1,12	1,12
Reorganisation of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council Departments ..	..	47	47
Appointment of a Director of Rural Reconstruction and a Special Officer for unemployment	..	48	48
			1,00,23

APPENDIX III.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Heads of Revenue.	Maximum yield. Since 1921-22.		Minimum yield. Since 1921-22.		Estimated yield in 1937-38.
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1. Share of the Central Export Duty on Jute ..	2,59,12	1929-30	1,50,00	1921-22	2,56,50
2. Judicial Stamps (Court fees including Probate and Succession fees) ..	2,93,02	1929-30	1,99,53	1922-23	2,09,80
3. Excise (on alcohol and drugs) ..	2,28,56	1925-26	1,34,81	1933-34	1,54,00
4. Non-Judicial Stamps ..	1,37,85	1925-26	71,40	1932-33	95,40
5. Registration fees ..	40,17	1927-28	18,47	1932-33	24,00
6. Entertainment and Betting Tax ..	23,73	1923-24	11,22	1933-34	17,80
Total ..	9,82,45		5,85,43		7,57,50

1. Land Revenue, which accounts for one quarter of the present revenue of 13 crores, is omitted because it differs from other heads of revenue in being based on a more or less fixed revenue demand which, if not paid when due, is generally paid in arrear.

2. In the case of the Central Export Duty on jute, the figures represent what this province would have got if the orders which now entitle her to 62½ per cent. of the net proceeds of the duty on jute produced in Bengal had been in force throughout.

3. Receipts in respect of Electricity and Motor Vehicles are omitted because these are taxes on expanding luxuries whose response to bad times is not likely to consist of a falling off in present yield.

4. Receipts on account of Income-tax (27½ lakhs in 1937-38) are omitted because our receipts under this head during the first 5 years of the present constitution will depend upon a complicated formula and because the data for calculating what that formula would have yielded had it been in force throughout are not available.

APPENDIX IV.

Comparative statement showing expenditure on the Legislative Bodies before and after the 1st April, 1937.

(Figures are in thousands.)

1936-37.

Bengal Legislative Council.

	Rs.
President and Deputy President	41
Secretary and Assistant Secretary	9
Members	..
17 Clerks and reporters	30
21 Servants	4
Temporary Establishment	..
Travelling allowance	42
House rent allowance	1
Contingencies	24
	1,51

1937-38 (Budget).

Bengal Legislative Assembly.	Rs.	*Bengal Legislative Council.*	Rs.
Speaker and Deputy Speaker	30	President and Deputy President	18
Secretary and Assistant Secretary	13	Secretary (Part-time) and Assistant Secretary	5
Members	..	Members	..
22 Clerks and reporters	30	5 Clerks and reporters	3
19 Servants	5	7 Servants	1
Temporary establishment	..	Temporary Establishment	..
Lump provision for extra staff	8	....	
Travelling allowance	1,52	Travelling allowance	20
House rent allowance	1	House rent allowance	..
Contingencies	25	Contingencies	3
	2,64		50

Total for both Houses of Legislature 3,14

1938-39 (Budget).

Bengal Legislative Assembly.	Rs.	*Bengal Legislative Council.*	Rs.
Speaker and Deputy Speaker	27	President and Deputy President	26
Secretary, two Assistant Secretaries and Registrar	29	Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Registrar	26
Members	4,28	Members	1,11
42 Clerks and reporters	52	15 Clerks	10
35 Servants	8	16 Servants	3
Temporary Establishment	2	Temporary Establishment	..
Travelling allowance	5,00	Travelling allowance	63
House rent allowance	1	House rent allowance	1
Hill allowance	1	Hill allowance	1
Contingencies	39	Contingencies	4
	10,87		2,45

Total for both Houses of Legislature 13,32

The above statement does not take into account increases in other directions such as the increase in the Press Budget owing to the larger volume of printing required.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you adjourn the proceedings of the day, may I request you kindly to ascertain the views of this House as to the desirability of allowing more time for the budget discussions than was possible last time. It appears that we are due to meet at 4-45 p.m. every day, and it is our practice to carry on till 7-30 p.m., normally and sometimes to 8 p.m., but in view of the present state of affairs, if it is not possible for us to meet beyond 8 p.m., will you consider the desirability of this House meeting a little earlier, say, at 3-30 p.m. or 4 p.m., instead of at 4-45 p.m., as at present.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as that point is concerned, I think it is too late now to ascertain the views of members. I propose to consult the leaders of the different groups on Monday next, and if they consider it desirable to extend the time I should be quite prepared to give my attention to it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Would it not be better to consult the House now, because if you were to consult the House on Monday one day would be gone?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that it is not possible to consult the House this evening. It cannot be helped.

I have just to say one word more. Copies of the budget speech and relevant papers are outside the Chamber at different places, and eight clerks have been placed in charge for the purpose of distributing them to members, and members will kindly take their copies from them.

I shall now adjourn the House.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Monday, the 21st day of February 1938, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 21st February 1938, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 201 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Monthly allowances to detenus.

***39. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Special) Department be pleased to state of the 1,100 detenus released how many of them applied for monthly allowances of Rs. 15 as declared in the Government communique.

(*b*) How many of those who applied for allowances have been granted the allowances applied for?

(*c*) What are the reasons for disallowing the allowances in cases of other applicants?

(*d*) How many of the detenus coming from the district of Tippera released recently applied for allowances of Rs. 15?

(*e*) How many of them have been granted allowances applied for?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME (SPECIAL) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): In the cases referred to the allowance is obtainable on application to the District Magistrate of the district in which the individual has elected to reside, or to the Deputy Commissioner, Special Branch, Calcutta, if he elects to reside in Calcutta, and no individual orders from Government are necessary. For this reason the statistical information asked for is not readily available, and its collection would entail so much time, labour, and expense that Government regrets that it is not prepared to undertake the task.

Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any complaint has been received from any released detenu that he has not received his allowance?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: A very large number.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Does the Hon'ble Minister think that the information with regard to (*d*) could not be obtained even in respect of one district?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: But with it items (*b*), (*c*) and (*e*) were also involved.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Has the Hon'ble Minister enquired from the District Magistrate of Tippera as to how many detenus applied for allowance?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, in view of the answer that has been given.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire whether it is not a fact that the political prisoners and detenus numbering 1,100 since released have not all got their allowance in spite of repeated applications?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It is quite possible that some of them may not have got it. I do not claim that all of them have received their allowance. They have been asked to make applications. Some of these applications are being investigated and unless there are reasons for not granting an allowance, every one will get the allowance.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that several applications were submitted by detenus to the District Magistrate of Faridpur for allowance and that though these applications were sent two months ago, they have not got any allowance?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It is quite possible that a large number of cases is pending, because investigation takes a little time. But if any particular case is brought to my notice, I shall certainly look into it.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was not the intention of Government to give

immediate relief to these released detnus so that after release they might carry on with these allowances?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Certainly, with that end in view this allowance was sanctioned. But there must be some procedure and method to be followed and the case of 1,100 detenus is not an easy task.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Does not the Hon'ble Minister consider it a hardship on the detenus if they do not get the allowance for two months?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it possible for the Hon'ble Minister to give us some idea of the time, labour and expenses that would be required for the collection of this information?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No.

Employees in the Agricultural Department of Khulna.

*40. **Babu PATIRAM ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*a*) the number of employees (rank by rank) at present serving in the Agricultural Department of Khulna;

(*b*) the total number of employees (grade by grade) from the Scheduled Castes or the cultivating class;

(*c*) the notable schemes adopted by the department in 1937;

(*d*) the amount (head by head) that was spent on those schemes; and

(*e*) the private or public organisations in the line in the district that were approved and inspected by the department?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) District Agricultural Officer—1, and Demonstrators—3 (1 permanent and 2 temporary).

(*b*) Two Demonstrators are from the cultivating class.

(*c*) (*i*) Establishment of an Agricultural Institute at Daulatpur.

(*ii*) During 1936-37, 12 Union Board farms were organised.

(*d*) Under (*i*) above the estimated expenditure amounts to Rs. 2,25,458 and under (*ii*) above Rs. 2,244.

(*e*) (*i*) 12 private farms.

(*ii*) One paddy seed farm.

(*iii*) 12 stud bulls.

The department also participated in the Exhibition held during 1936-37 at Nawapara, Bagerhat subdivision.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: With regard to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain the term "cultivating class"? Does it include the Moslems?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: All classes including Moslems, scheduled castes, etc.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these were Moslems?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the districts to which these 12 union board farms belong?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: In Khulna.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: How many unions are there in Bengal?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: With reference to answer (*c*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the 12 union boards that were organised were organised at Government cost or with money from the union board fund?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Dr. H. C. MUKHERJI: With regard to answer (*d*), how much of the sum of Rs. 2,25,458 has been actually spent?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With reference to answer (*e*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the name of the seed farm and where it has been established?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Muslim Veterinary Inspectors and Assistant Directors.

***41. Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of Muslim Veterinary Inspectors and Assistant Directors against their total strength under his department; and

(*ii*) whether there is any Government circular on the proportion of Muslims to be employed in the department?

(*b*) If so, is it in contemplation to fill up the next vacancy of Assistant Director by a senior Muslim Veterinary Inspector?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) (*i*) There are 18 Inspectors, 5 of whom are Muslims. There are 2 Assistant Directors. Neither is a Muslim at present.

(*ii*) As regards subordinate and clerical services under the department—Yes. As regards the Provincial Veterinary Services, the matter is under consideration.

(*b*) The post of Assistant Director is in the Lower Provincial Veterinary Service and the rules prescribe recruitment either by promotion from the grade of Inspector or by direct recruitment. It has not been decided how the next vacancy will be filled.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether one of the Assistant Directors has been granted extension?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether an Assistant Director is going to retire very soon?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Yes.

Al-Haj Maulana Dr. SANAULLAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is prepared to appoint a duly qualified Muslim in the next vacancy in view of the paucity of Muslims in the Department?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I have always said that in these appointments efficiency is absolutely essential, and if there is a qualified Moslem candidate for the post, he will be appointed.

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: What is the necessary qualification for an Assistant Director?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: He must be an M.R.C.V.S.

General Election of Local Boards in Midnapore.

*42. **Mr. HARENDRA DOLUI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state when the General Election of Local Boards in the district of Midnapore will take place?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Nausher Ali): The District Magistrate has not yet fixed the date of the election.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Generally the District Magistrate makes awful delay in fixing the dates of these Local Board elections. What is the reason?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Generally? I do not accept the statement to be correct.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the approximate date when the election may be fixed by the District Magistrate?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: The term of the Local Board will expire on the 12th August 1938 and the term of the District Board will expire on the 9th January 1939.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is contemplating consulting the District Board regarding the abolition of Local Boards in the district of Midnapore?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question hardly arises.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: May I submit, Sir, that the question of re-election to the Local Boards has arisen, and my point is that whether these elections are contemplated to be held or it is the intention of Government to abolish Local Boards.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first part is all right, but not the second part.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Are we to understand that the election to the Local Board in that particular district will be held in the year 1940 in view of the answer given by the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I do not quite understand how that inference is possible.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given by the Minister as regards the expiry of the term in August, has the Government issued any direction to the District Magistrate for fixing the date earlier?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: It is not necessary for the Government to issue any direction to the District Magistrate.

Leave of process-servers.

***43. Maulvi MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Legislative and Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a process-server is entitled under the service rules to get leave with pay on any ground; and

(*b*) whether the Government are aware—

(*i*) that two Mussalman process-servers applied to the District Judge, Noakhali, for leave with pay to perform their *Hadj* pilgrimage this year; and

(*ii*) but that they were refused such leave and pressed to submit application for leave without pay; and

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, do the Government contemplate taking any step to redress such grievances?

MINISTER in charge of the LEGISLATIVE and JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Yes, if leave is due to him.

(*b*) One process-server only applied for leave on full pay for six months to proceed on *Hadj* pilgrimage. His application was refused as such leave was not due. He applied again for four months for any kind of leave if due and he was allowed leave for four months on half average pay to which he was entitled.

(*c*) Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Union Board Elections.

13. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Union Board elections were due in Howrah and other districts in the beginning of January, 1938;

(*b*) whether elections have been postponed suddenly;

(*c*) why have the elections been postponed;

(*d*) have Government considered the question that the postponement will not cause inconvenience to the peasants; and

(*e*) when will the elections take place?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: (*a*) As far as Government are aware, the general election of Union Boards was due to be held in the Howrah district and the Sadar subdivision of Tippera in January, 1938, and in the Malda district between January, 1938, and February, 1938.

(*b*) Yes, in December, 1937.

(*c*) Owing to contemplated amendment of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act.

(*d*) and (*e*) The order has since been cancelled.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*d*), why the order has been cancelled?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I frankly confess it was due to a miscalculation on my part that the previous order was issued.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister kindly tell us whether it is under the contemplation of the Government to amend the Village Self-Government Act in this session?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Some minor amendments may be introduced.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the election was postponed in accordance with the instructions of the Minister himself?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Yes, it was an order under my instructions.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether it is under the contemplation of the Government to do away with the system of nomination by the Bill to be introduced amending the Village Self-Government Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: The question of abolition of nomination is under the consideration of Government, but if any Bill is introduced this session that matter will not be in that amending Bill.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us the reason why that particular amendment will not be included in the proposed amendment of the Village Self-Government Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: The reason is perhaps obvious to many. I want to have a Bill through this House with regard to certain working difficulties, and also to remove certain anomalies which experience has shown in the working of the Village Self-Government Act. But so far as the abolition of nomination is concerned, that is a controversial subject, and that is why it cannot be introduced this session.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: The Hon'ble Minister is perhaps aware of the fact that Mr. Sukumar Dutta has already put forward an amendment for the abolition of nominations and in view of the opinions

that the circulated in different centres, and in view of the opinion we have received, is he going to consider—

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a question, that is a request for action.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us whether it is the unanimous opinion of the Members of this House and Members of the Union Boards generally to do away with the system of nomination?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is too vague.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether under the amending Bill of the Village Self-Government Act, the Government contemplate to give the right of appointing Chowkidars and Duffadars to the Unions?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Sir, I have already stated that what is intended is to remove certain working difficulties and no controversial subject is likely to be brought in in any amendment that can possibly be brought in in this session of the Assembly.

Amendment of Bengal Village Self-Government Act.

14. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether the Government will consider the desirability of amending the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, introducing the following in the Union Boards:—

(*a*) abolition of the system of nomination;

(*b*) granting of universal adult suffrage;

(*c*) introduction of the system of voting by Ballot;

(*d*) formation of single seat constituencies;

(*e*) conceding the right of voters to recall their representatives;

(*f*) expenses, pay and dress of the *chowkidars* and *dafadars* to be paid by the Government; and

(*g*) conceding the right to Union Boards to appoint *chowkidars* and *dafadars*?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: (*a*) to (*d*) The matters are under the consideration of Government.

(*e*) to (*g*) No.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: With reference to anwser (*f*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government decision to the effect that expenses, pay and dress of the Chowkidars and Duffadars will not be paid by the Government, is final, or is it under the contemplation of the Government to reconsider this question before police estimate is put to vote during the Budget session?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: The answer nowhere says that any decision has been arrived at by the Government. It only says that that matter has never been under the consideration of the Government at all.

Externee Babu Jamini Kanta Chakravarty.

15. Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that Babu Jamini Kanta Chakravarty, inhabitant of Chhaygaon, police-station Bhedarganj, district Faridpur, was externed from Calcutta and suburbs in 1934 for 25 years;

(*ii*) that the said Jamini Kanta was carrying on business in Calcutta while he was externed and that his business has been ruined owing to his externment; and

(*iii*) that the said Jamini Kanta is in financial difficulty to maintain himself and his family?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were his offences which led to his externment?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the said Jamini Kanta has petitioned to the Government for review and withdrawal of the said order of externment?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of withdrawing the order of externment in his present circumstances?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) I have no information.

(*b*) He was dealt with under the Bengal Smuggling of Arms Act (VI of 1934), and the Judges who heard his case found him to be a smuggler of arms.

(*c*) I have not seen any such petition.

(*d*) No.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the maximum punishment under the Bengal Smuggling of Arms

Act (VI of 1934) is transportation for life, and is the Hon'ble Minister aware that transportation for life means on calculation to be 20 years?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister please consider the fact that externment for 25 years under the Act does not stand to law?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I would like to know which portion of the question the Hon'ble Member is referring to.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Answer to (*d*). My question is, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of withdrawing the order of externment in his present circumstances, to which the Hon'ble Minister says "No". My supplementary question is "does not the Hon'ble Minister consider the fact that externment for 25 years does not stand to law?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: For the present, there is nothing to justify cancelling the order.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether he will kindly consider it in the near future?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It all depends on the circumstances; I cannot make any statement on that now.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he would kindly enquire into the fact that this Jamini Kanta Chakravarty who has been externed for 25 years is now almost starving with his family. Will he kindly enquire into this?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, Jamini Kanta Chakravarty never protested against the externment order. On the other hand, he himself wanted to go out of Calcutta. He did not put up any defence and practically admitted his charges before the Judges.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: In view of the fact of his having admitted his guilt, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider his case more leniently?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There are a large number of people and the principle must be applied to all in the same manner, and this person has not been in externment for more than 4 or 5 years at the moment; so any question of permission will depend on circumstances with regard to the general political situation and his behaviour.

Inspectors, Auditors and Supervisors in the Co-operative Department

16. Mr. S. A. COMES: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the present time—

(*a*) the total number employed in the department of (*i*) Inspectors (*ii*) Auditors and (*iii*) Supervisors; and

(*b*) how many of them are (*i*) Caste Hindus, (*ii*) Scheduled Castes (*iii*) Muslims and (*iv*) Indian Christians?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): A statement is placed on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 16.

	Caste Hindus.	Scheduled Castes.	Muslims.	Indian Christians.	Others.
	1	2	3	4	5
Inspectors 84 ..	45	2	35	Nil	2
Auditors 241 ..	126	10	103	Nil	2
Irrigation Supervisors 10 ..	8	Nil	2	Nil	Nil

These figures are for staff actually employed excluding the Inspector and Auditor candidates recently recruited for training.

Dr. H. C. MUKHERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons why Indian Christians are unrepresented? Is it for want of suitable qualified candidates?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: These figures represent only those who are actually employed in the services. In regard to the recruitment that has recently been made, the Indian Christians are there.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister that two Inspectors and ten Auditors have been taken from the Scheduled Castes, will he be pleased to state how many applied for these posts?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise here.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government considers the desirability of appointing more propaganda officers in these departments?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. H. C. MUKHERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many Indian Christians have been taken since this statement was prepared?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Well, so far as I remember two Indian Christians have been selected for training—one as Inspector and one as Auditor.

Dr. H. C. MUKHERJI: How many applied for these posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I am sorry, I must ask for notice.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Were there not a sufficient number of applicants from the Scheduled Castes for these posts?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any propaganda officer was appointed for this department?

Mr. SPEAKER: Propaganda officer is not the subject matter of the question.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Referring to item 5 of the answer, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who are those "others" referred to besides the Caste Hindus, Scheduled Castes, Muslims and Indian Christians?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I mean the Buddhists and Paharis.

Judicial Officers in Noakhali.

17. Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSAINI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of Judicial Officers in the district of Noakhali; and

(*ii*) the number of Hindu and Mussalman officers in those posts and the rank they hold?

(*b*) If there is no Mussalman officers in those posts, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*i*) One District Judge, 2 Sub-Judges and 10 Munsifs—3 posted at Sudharam, 3 at Lakshmipur, 2 at Feni, 1 at Sandwip and 1 at Hatiya.

(*ii*) The Munsifs at Hatiya and Sandwip are the only two Mussalman Judicial Officers in Noakhali district and the rest are Hindus.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Sheristadars in Dacca civil courts.

18. Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the Dacca civil courts—

(*a*) how many Sheristadars are there at present;

(*b*) how many of them are Mussalmans;

(*c*) has any of them been promoted superseding the claims of Muhammadan officers; and

(*d*) if so, what is the reason?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Seventeen.

(*b*) One.

(*c*) Government is not aware of such cases.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Maulvi IDRIS AHMED MIA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to fix the percentage of Muslims for these posts?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Not in such posts.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why there is such a paucity in the posts of Muslim Sheristadars in Dacca?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: After all, you know, these people are appointed by promotion if they are considered fit; there is no direct recruitment.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of making an enquiry into the fact that the senior Muslim clerks have been superseded by the juniors in the matter of these promotions?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I want notice for a question like this, but I should rather tell my friend in a general way. During the last one year I have seen improvements have been effected in the matter of promotions also.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: My question is, will the Hon'ble Minister kindly consider the desirability of making an enquiry into the matter that several Muslim senior clerks have been superseded by the junior Hindu clerks in the matter of these promotions in the district of Dacca?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: If there be any representation it will come to me and I shall consider it.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I would wish to ask you, Sir, if there was any matter of urgent public importance for the postponement of to-morrow's meeting from 4-45 p m. to 6-30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami, you know very well that the time is fixed by the Governor, that is to say by the Governor acting on the advice of his Ministers, and all I have to do is to receive the order from the Governor and to fix the time. So long as the present Standing Rules are there, I have got no power whatsoever to enter into the question of the reason as to why it is so.

The Budget discussion is now open, and under the power vested in me, I would fix fifteen minutes for each speaker. Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta will speak?

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET, 1930-31.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I carefully listened to the excellent speech delivered by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, and I have gone through the printed speech also very carefully. I find, Sir, the statement is a curious mixture of lofty ideals and noble sentiments, and a sad failure to implement them into actual practice. Having been nursed on Congress ideals and having thrived amongst Congressmen, the Hon'ble Minister has not failed to appreciate the national needs and the national ideals, and even I find he mentions in his speech "the Congress ideals and Congress programme," but, alas, being in a strange company, we find a distinct divorce from those ideals in his budget provisions. I will presently show from a statement that the budget is a glaring example of the widest divergence between profession and practice. Before I do that I should also like to draw the attention of the House to the inconsistent statements that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has made in his admirable Budget Speech. You will find that when the Hon'ble Finance Minister intends to prepare and persuade the House in the matter of additional taxation for big irrigation projects, there is a vivid and correct description of the real condition of the province in his speech. We find in his statement: "Expert opinion has pointed out that in most parts of Central and Western Bengal a continuous process of depopulation and deterioration of agriculture has set in. The courses of rivers that materially contributed to the richness of the soil, health and wealth of the population have been deflected and most of them are to-day silted up, turning the neighbouring areas barren and uninhabitable. Marshes and fallows have taken the place of smiling fields and abodes of contented population have turned into veritable jungles with the result that to-day disease and death stalk the land." I need not continue further. But when the Hon'ble Minister wants to ignore the insistent and most reasonable demand for retrenchment in the top-heavy administration and Governmental expenditure, we find that he has given his lip sympathy for the demand, and he has in the end put forward contrary views to justify the shameless continuance of that heavy expenditure, nay even more, to add to the already heavy expenditure a sum of two lakhs of rupees. Speaking about retrenchment the Hon'ble Minister has said: "This demand is only natural on the part of the representatives of the people on whose behalf it has always been maintained that the administrative machinery must be very economically and must be consistent with the means and circumstances of the people and the country, and I fully share their anxiety for economy and simplification of the administrative system." I find here that he responds to the popular demand, but, alas, it is only lip sympathy, because he goes on and says: "A drastic reduction in expenditure by means of a 'Geddes' or 'Swan' axe in times of acute economic crisis may be forced upon

Governments as a matter of sheer necessity, which overrules considerations that in normal times would be allowed to prevail", and again he goes on: "In examining any scheme of retrenchment to-day we should be guided by considerations relevant to normal times."

Sir, I have already read out the description of the country that he has given, with the remarks that disease and death stalk the land, but when considering the question of retrenchment he has conveniently forgotten the real condition of the country, and he has not hesitated to put forward that we are living in normal times, possibly amidst plenty, because he may judge others according to the standard of the Treasury Benches who possibly do not feel the pinch of poverty. Sir, these are the inconsistencies we find in his budget speech. If it was only an inconsistent statement, I would not have worried this House, but what do we find? We find that not only he has refused the demand for retrenchment, but he has also added nearly two lakhs of rupees of extra expenditure to meet the inordinate demands of the Subdivisional and District Officers. Where simplication is called for, where retrenchment is called for, the extra income that this province has been fortunate enough to get out of the income-tax fund and the jute tax have all been taken up in meeting the demands of Special Officers, deputations Special Committees, and other things. I have tried to add them up together, and I hope that I have not missed many items. I find that on deputation of Special Officers to Denmark and to other foreign countries, training of propaganda officers for jute centres, jute restriction propaganda and such other things, I find on these things that he has budgeted for nearly 7½ lakhs of rupees. And while the cry is there to meet the needs of the hungry millions, he has only thought of—if I may say so without any disrespect—pampering to the already well-fed officers of Government and others who are waiting to receive Government patronage in the shape of jobs.

We further find, Sir, that he has budgeted for certain survey parties and Special Officers. On reading the budget speech, one almost wonders whether members of this House have come here from Timbuctoo or Honolulu or whether a Finance Minister has been sent from over the British Isles for the first time to acquaint himself with the needs, requirements, privations of and starvation in this country. What do we need all these Special Officers for? Have we not already got sufficient intelligent men in the Government departments who could be entrusted with this or that duty, if any census was necessary? Are we to suppose that these officers are such idiots that they cannot possibly understand the complicated problems which face the districts and the rural areas? Why do we require the deputation expenses of all these Special Officers?

Thinking about the Co-operative Department, the Hon'ble Minister, I suppose, being impressed with the rottenness of that department, has

turned to the State of Denmark for better guidance, and he has said that he proposes to depute two officers to Denmark. I say if you want to study the difficulties and the problems of the Co-operative Department, let our officers study them in Indian environments. We all know that the Punjab co-operative credit system has been highly spoken of. If the Hon'ble Minister believes in the doctrine that Indian Philosophy is good when Max Muller has pronounced it to be good, I tell him that the Punjab co-operative credit system has been spoken of very highly by English authorities like Wolffe and American authorities like Miss Hough and many others. So that if your require any knowledge, any added information regarding the successful working of the co-operative credit, why send them to Denmark? After all, we know that in Denmark, what they have done well in is not the co-operative credit facilities, but it is the co-operative marketing facilities that they have excelled in or met with success of the intensive cultivation of small farms. We have also seen that the Hon'ble Finance Minister is providing for training special education officers in foreign countries I should have expected that he would ask some of the Education Department heads to study the Indian schemes. There is the Wardha scheme which ought to be studied unless the present Bengal Ministry would like to set their face against it, because it is connected with the Congress. Similarly, I should think that the survey parties for which additional money has been provided ought to be available from amongst the Settlement Officers who are about to be thrown out of employment. I, therefore, say that in the matter of retrenchment the Hon'ble Finance Miniser has really been impervious to the popular demand and has made provisions which do not appeal to this side of the House. I mentioned about the divergence between profession and practice. May I, Sir, draw the attention of the House to the words used by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. We find that he has said in inimitable language ".....the necessity of viewing our problems against a human background and observed that our aim was to resurrect the average man who in predominantly agricultural country is the cultivator." He then refers to the relief of rural indebtedness, spread of primary education, and the stimulation of prices of agricultural commodities. We find again he says—"To elevate society, to improve the human material, to rouse the masses to a sense of intolerance of their present condition, in short to set the forces that make for progress in motion, is a duty that must finally devolve on society itself. We can but point to the road. If further taxation is necessary, we must be prepared courageously to impose——.

(Here the member reached his time-limit and was allowed two minutes to speak.)

Now though he has mentioned this lofty ideal appeal on the pages of the budgetary statement, the only provision that he has made is with

regard to these is survey parties and the training of some special officers and additional officers. He has not formulated a bold and comprehensive scheme—well-planned scheme—which will attack the different problems which have got to be solved for a real reconstruction. And I assure him that if he wants to do that and if he wants to consult the Opposition, we are ready to give him suggestions, we are ready to help him with a comprehensive scheme which we will try to resurrect the man which he wants and which will help him to revive the dying people of Bengal.

But may I only conclude by reading his concluding paragraph: "Criticism is by no means an antithesis to co-operation. What is necessary is the desire to find the greatest common factor of national prosperity. The chief requisite is co-operation—"not abject submission to an *imposed system*," mark the words "not abject submission to an imposed system." I wonder whether the inner consciousness of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, that he had after all made an abject surrender to the imposed system and has not been able to divert from that path, has made him say this. With these words I appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to consider whether he ought not to have a comprehensive scheme instead of tinkering schemes and consequent useless expenditure.

Sir GEORGE CAMPBELL: Sir, we have once again to congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on a satisfactory and well-presented budget. He described it as a deficit budget, but, I think, he would have had every justification for giving it a better title than that. Owing certainly to something in the nature of windfalls, he has had a larger income than he allowed for in his previous budget, and, that being so, he is perfectly justified, I suggest, to budget for larger expenditure in the coming year than the estimated revenue would seem to allow, and that only for a very small sum—a comparatively small sum. One thing I am glad to notice and that is that he has not allowed for a revenue which has been derived, during the last three years, from what was described as emergency taxation. There is, in all places, too much of a tendency that once emergency taxation has been enforced for a certain period of time, to forget that this is emergency taxation and gradually to merge it into normal revenues. I hope, therefore, that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has really taken this view and appreciates that when an emergency has passed, the emergency taxation should not be revived.

I do not propose, at this stage, to take up in detail any of the varied items in this budget. This will arise on the different items as we go along and with the demands for grants. But I would finish by saying that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, as he himself admitted, has had a considerable amount of luck, in addition to the hard work he has himself put in. And I think a man is just as much to be

congratulated on being lucky in this world as for hard work. In fact in actual practice we find a man being more congratulated for being lucky than for working hard, and that being so, I am glad to congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on the luck he has had in finance, and I hope that that good luck will continue to supplement and to reward the hard labour which, we all know, he is putting in in the great work he is doing in his department and the care and trouble he gives to the preparation of the budget and the manner in which he presents it to us.

Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM: The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has presented the budget for 1938-39. I remember that on the last occasion in presenting the budget for 1937-38 he called up some of the mighty minds of the preceding generations and built up "cloudy symbols of a high romance" about the peasantry of Bengal. This time the budget that has been presented by him is free from dreams and fantasies to a great extent. He has no doubt taken cognizance of the "pathetic figure behind the plough"—the man who according to him in a predominantly agricultural country like ours is called a cultivator but after all what is the budget and what is the provision made therein for the amelioration of the condition of that "pathetic figure". I am told that this is an occasion on which we have got to give our benediction to the Finance Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Not at all—Curse.

Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM: He is indeed entitled to our sincerest congratulation. Not only the Hon'ble Finance Minister but his colleagues also are entitled to their due share of the congratulation. Not only that, I go further. Some of the hon'ble members of this House who placed before the Cabinet constructive suggestions in the light of which the Hon'ble the Finance Minister had to act are also entitled to some share of congratulation. With a thrill of exceeding joy I read a certain portion of his budget speech. He has said that the police budget shows a saving of over three lakhs owing to retrenchment; more than two lakhs under "Jail" owing to the closure of the Deoli Jail and the general decrease in jail population. The release of detenus accounts for a reduction of nearly two lakhs. This is a piece of exceedingly happy news to all of us. These youths, who, right or wrong, felt unhappy under an alien rule, under a foreign domination, became victims to dreams of their own and impulses of their environment and sufferred the consequences of their course of action.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Talk to your eleven Ministers.

Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM: Let them feel that eleven illustrious sons of Bengal are now the architects of our destiny and under such happy

auspices, they will be in their element to shape their manhood anew and help forward the restoration of mankind. That being the position, a great amount of congratulation must go to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. Leaving that question there, if we proceed to consider the question of outstanding importance, namely, the question of the "pathetic figure behind the plough", how far has the high priest of that "pathetic figure" made provision in the budget for their amelioration. Before me my hon'ble friend Mr. Gupta in a way all his own pointed out the necessary elements in the budget speech which would go to show that practically nothing has been done for those poor people. What is a great surprise to me is the provision for a Pardah College mentioned in the budget speech. I feel——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are you opposing it?

Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM: I fail to understand what the Pardah College means. As a Muslim, I know the colloquial and technical meanings of the word "pardah", but I see, a Muslim lady of the highest rank represented Indian women in the Round Table Conference and there Mr. McDonald himself paid an eloquent compliment to her for her silver-tongued oratory. Coming nearer home, we see the ladies of the harem coming out to participate in the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly and of the Legislative Council. Here we see that Muslim ladies have taken the Advocate's gown and are actually arguing their cases before Their Lordships in the Calcutta High Court. Muslim ladies have been appointed to sit as honorary Magistrates, and as members of educational institutions. One of our hon'ble sisters, a member of the Legislature, coming from the noblest family of Bengal, has been placed on the Panel of Chairmen of this august Assembly to give us guidance and conduct the deliberations of this House whenever occasion arises. If that be the exact picture of our society, I do not understand what advantage is there in establishing a Purdah College. Is it open to the Muslims only? or is it open to all? If it is open to all, I do not see that there is any general cry for an addition to the existing number of Colleges for girls and there is still accommodation for girls in those places. Five lakhs of rupees would be initially spent for the purpose of the building of that proposed college. Now, hungry millions are there who are actually decaying in the district. They go unfed and without clothing. They live in huts which have no protection against rain. These people are there and they sent their champion, the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq on an expedition to win the "golden fleece."

Here is the Hon'ble Chief Minister making use of that "Golden Fleece" in that way. Whenever the question of the introduction of compulsory and free primary education comes up before the House, the invariable and inevitable answer is paucity of funds, but here we are

spending 5 lakhs and we shall have to spend many lakhs more for the purpose of the up-keep of that college. I do not know who has introduced this fantastic idea in the Finance Minister's mind. Sir, statistics will show that there are only 30 Muslim girls reading all over the province in Intermediate Colleges, and Calcutta may claim only half a dozen of that number. Sir, for half a dozen girls a college is going to be established. It is high time for Mr. Fazlul Huq to stop; it is time we cried a halt. Now, Sir, it is a pity that we the Muslim legislators of this House—(interruption) Yes, I claim to speak for myself and I am not afraid of speaking out my own views. (Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal: Then you are a Prahlad).

The next thing is the question of the construction of a separate building for the members of the Legislative Council—a dream in marble no doubt. I would like to tell the hon'ble members of this side of the House that the splendour of this House is the measure of the poverty of our people. Sir, what good sojourning in this House of pomp and splendour, what good listening to the harangues that drop from the lips of the thunderers of this House, what good commanding the applause of listening senators, what good "scattering plenty over a smiling land" if when we go home back we are confronted with the prevalence of distress amongst millions of our men. The children of the hungry millions will not come up to Calcutta to study in the proposed college, they will not come up to Calcutta to sit in soft luxury, in the cool atmosphere of the proposed council building. Our hoary-headed senators, our Elders may have that luxury. It is only a tiny inconvenience to them—a petty inconvenience to them—a fastidiousness for them, but it is death to millions of our countrymen.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Hakeem, I hope that in your remarks about the members of the other House you should be particularly careful not to make any remarks which are in the nature, directly or indirectly of a reflection on them. You can discuss but cannot make any such remarks on them.

Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM: Very well, Sir, I obey you. The Finance Minister towards the close of his budget speech, while speaking against individual aggrandisement at the cost of the national cause asked us to read the hand-writing on the wall. I would ask the Hon'ble members of the Cabinet and those hon'ble friends who do not associate with me in this view to read "the handwriting on the wall" of the proposed building. They would also read "the handwriting on the wall" of the Purdah College. Now, Sir, this is no occasion for me to bandy words with anybody, it is the feeling that bursts out of me and I believe I voice the feelings of millions of people whom we pretend to represent in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. You must withdraw that expression.

Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM: All right, Sir, I withdraw it if it is unparliamentary. Now, Sir, at the very beginning of the Budget speech, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister wanted to budget with caution. I would request him to budget with caution in these two important respects also, and it is not very far in the day, the shades of evening have not yet fallen on the landscape—even now there is time for us to retrace our steps. I believe, if this House is in agreement with what I am just placing before them, they will exercise all the influence they have at their command to see that these two gigantic proposals do not materialise. Hon'ble members of this House who are in front of me occupying the Left Wing of this House, I have the greatest admiration for you, for the simple reason that you have spoken "loud and bold", for the simple reason that you have called a spade a spade. If that be the position, I would appeal to you, to make one more supreme effort so that the proposed dream in marble is rudely shattered. I have at the very beginning said that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is entitled to our deepest love and sincerest congratulations for the ameliorative measures——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it will be convenient if I adjourn the House now, instead of interrupting a speaker in the midst of a speech. As I have to adjourn the House at about 6 p.m. it will be convenient to adjourn the House now for 20 minutes for the evening prayer.

(The House was then adjourned for 20 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Mr. DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: Sir, in rising to discuss the budget that has been introduced by my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker, I do not use the language of mere convention when I say that Mr. Sarker deserves our warmest congratulations on the method of his presentation of the budget. It must be confessed that the manner in which he has compiled his budget and explanatory remarks that have been circulated among the members of this House are much better than has been done hitherto in any previous budget; but, Sir, I wish that I could felicitate the other members of the Cabinet in a similar manner. The Finance Minister in introducing his budget is but the spokesman of the various Ministers who have got distinct departments in their charge. Sir, when we study the budget, we regretfully and

painfully find that the initial problems in this province have not been properly tackled, and to that extent it is impossible for me to congratulate the other members of the Cabinet. Sir, what are really the problems before the province? The fundamental problem of all problems that lies before us is the improvement of the condition of the people in every material sphere. Whether we think of agriculture or whether we think of industries or of any other line such as education, sanitation or of any other sphere there is such a vast amount of work to be done that it is absolutely necessary that we should on the one hand conserve every pie that we have available to us, and on the other hand have well-designed schemes to carry out the objects that we have in view. As regard conservation of the money that we have available to us, Sir, I am pained to find, and must remark that the money that is available to us is being frittered away, for I cannot use any other expression to describe the expenditure of no less than 15 lakhs of rupees on erecting a building for the sittings of the Upper House. Sir, who is it that has found any difficulty in the Upper House in meeting in this very Chamber for the purpose of carrying on their deliberations? Are we so overflowing with money that we must have a luxurious building for the Upper House, to have a separate Chamber to carry on their deliberations for two or three months in the year? Could not the money be better utilized for the purpose of advancing the interest of agriculture, industries, sanitation, education, etc? Sir, would the Hon'ble the Finance Minister lay his hand on his heart and tell us that this expenditure was more essential than the other useful items of expenditure that are needed for the benefit of the people of this province? How much of these 15 lakhs of rupees would go to our poor people and not be spent on imported materials I cannot say. But perhaps the Minister in charge of the Public Works Department would be able to state. But surely it would have been better to spend this 15 lakhs of rupees on productive enterprises which would go to increase the resources of people everywhere instead of putting a small amount of money in their pocket just for the sake of building.

Sir, another item which was dealt with by the speaker who immediately preceded me is the Purdah College for Girls. Sir, if my information is correct, I understand that this college with a high sounding name of "Purdah College" is intended for no more than half a dozen girls. Sir, I would be the last person to stand in the way of an improvement of the education of either Moslem or other Purdah girls. But, Sir, if there are only half a dozen or at the most nine girls who come under that category, it would perhaps even be better for Government to pay their maintenance, their housing allowance, their education expenditure wholly rather than build a separate college for six girls only. Again, Sir, I will make the remark, are we so overflowing with money that we can fritter away a sum of no less than 5 lakhs of rupees for the purpose of building a college for half a dozen girls only? Sir,

if there is any item of expenditure which can be correctly described as being frittered away, it is this.

Sir, another item which is absolutely difficult to understand is the item of 2½ lakhs of rupees on "Youth Welfare Work". I have read in the papers about "Hitler Youth Movement" and "Mussolini's Youth Movement", but what is this "Youth Movement" that we are going to have in this province? Not a single detail, Sir, has been given either in the explanatory memorandum circulated with the budget or in the Finance Minister's speech. I have read it carefully, Sir, and no indication has been given of the purpose for which this Youth Welfare Fund is going to be spent. I am told, Sir, that football grounds will be provided for them. I do not think, Sir, that that is seriously said, because there is a separate provision for football grounds. Sir, this House before passing this item is certainly entitled to know what the scheme is before the Government for "Youth Welfare." I would not be surprised, Sir, if this is another high sounding name for some scheme which will not really do welfare to the youth of this province, but will be frittered away in some other directions suited to the tastes and fancies of our Hon'ble Ministers. I hope, Sir, all my colleagues in this House will carefully scrutinize what the youth welfare work is. It is a term which can involve many things. The best youth welfare work that can be done is to improve their health and improve their education, and for these two purposes there are separate provisions. I do not know, Sir, what this youthful welfare work means—I am sorry for the use of the word "youthful", but perhaps the adjective would have been more correct.

Then, Sir, when we come to the Department of Agriculture there is a sole absence of anything constructive either in the budget itself or in the explanatory memorandum or in the Hon'ble Finance Minister's speech. Agriculture, Sir, is a subject which could be tackled in a much better way than it has been sought to be done in this budget. It appears, Sir, that agriculture is the most unimportant part of the work of the Ministry, although the people at large will say that agriculture is the most important part. One portion of the budget speech to which I would like to draw the attention of this House in connection with agriculture is the heading of the "Improvement of livestock". When we see, Sir, we find that a paltry sum of Rs. 10,000 has been provided for opening a dairy section at the Dacca Farm and additional staff has been provided for animal husbandry work. Sir, Rs. 10,000 is going to improve the breed of cattle in Bengal! Rs. 10,000 is going to supply all the milk and milk products that are necessary for the people of this province. No idea whatsoever is given to us, Sir, if there is something up the sleeves of the Hon'ble Ministers in trying to improve agriculture. There is another important thing, Sir, about which I do not find anything said and which I would like to mention in spite of the

fact that I am a vegetarian and that, Sir, is fishery. Sir, fish is the staple diet of the people of this province. It is well known that, if properly organized, Bengal could supply fish perhaps to the whole of the world in just the same way as Japan has organized to do. But, Sir, we do not find any mention of that important subject in this budget nor any scheme by which Government propose to improve the condition of that food among the people of this province.

Then, Sir, I come to the very important subject of industry. I expected that a really good scheme would be put forward in this year's budget. Hopes and expectations were given to us during the last budget debate, and I waited patiently till the introduction of the present budget to find out what the Government is planning to do. Sir, when we come to the budget we find that they do not even serve to tinker the problems, if we can use the word in good sense. Sir, is it by the means that are disclosed in the budget that people of this province are going to be made industrially minded, that the resources of our manufactured goods are going to be increased? Is it by these means, Sir, that the Ministers expect that this province can be made independent for the supply of their manufactured requirements? Sir, I submit, that this part of the budget discloses a complete ignorance of the subject of the development of industries. I am sure, Sir, that no proper advice has been taken, no scheme has been formed and this being a very important department the life of this province has not been seriously tackled. This problem is being simply tinkered with, and I hope, Sir, that the Government will give adequate attention to the necessity of the development of industries in this province, so that not only the standard of the life of the people may be enhanced, but that the people may have more productive ability and more consuming power.

Then, Sir, when we come to the Department of Public Health, money having been frittered away on other schemes, it appears that really beneficent work is not to be done. I can congratulate the Government on their decision to establish a climatic sanatorium for tubercular patients, and such a sanatorium is very necessary, but, Sir, would a grant of one lakh of rupees be sufficient for the establishment of a proper climatic sanatorium? We are not told where this climatic sanatorium is to be established? We are not told how many beds would be installed in such a climatic sanatorium. No details whatsoever, are given. Sir, this is not the way in which this House should be treated. This matter was debated upon at the time the last budget was introduced, and it was due to this House that more details should have been given.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not yet settled.

Mr. DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: Dr. Sanyal in his usual manner shouts out "not yet settled". I am not in the confidence of the Government; perhaps he is.

As regards anti-malarial measures, again the provisions are absolutely disappointing. Sir, these are some instances only, which I have cited before this House to show that the real problems before this province have not been seriously tackled. Then, Sir, there is one more subject (as my time is soon going to be up) to which I would particularly like to draw the attention of this House, namely, the Stamp Act. Sir, a Bill has been introduced. I hope, Sir, I have not the slightest doubt that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is aware of the difference in the rates of stamp duties between the different provinces. Even on commercial documents though executed in one province have applicability in other provinces. If the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will look into the provisions of the different Acts that have been passed in the different provinces, he will find that in a large number of items there are different rates of duty causing a large amount of inconvenience not only to the mercantile community but to other people as well. I would like to know what steps the Government have been taking for the purpose of making the rates of duty on the various documents uniform as between the different provinces. It is very necessary to do that, and, Sir, just one thing more which you will kindly permit me to mention. At page 21 of the explanatory memorandum I find, Sir, that the receipts from electricity duties have been shown at Rs. 4,20,000 as against Rs. 18 lakhs in the last year. This is put on the ground that the electricity duty will come to an end on the 30th June. I hope, Sir, that Government will at least do this justice to the people of the city of Calcutta not to ask for a continuation of the Electricity Duty Act. They have refused permission to the Corporation of Calcutta to buy up the undertaking of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation and have thereby debarred the people of this city from having cheap electricity. Sir, if it is said that Rs. 4 lakhs 20 thousand have been put in simply because the Electricity Duty Act is coming to an end, I would draw the attention of this House that in the case of the betting-tax it is also coming to an end very soon, but the revenue in this year's budget shows the same shown in the last.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not very soon, but by the end of September.

Mr. DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: Dr. Sanyal has got into the inveterate habit of interrupting, but September is not far off.

But the revenue from that tax has been put. The whole figure of Rs. 10 lakhs is the same amount as the last year. Therefore, Sir, I presume that the intention of the Government is to continue the

letting-tax which is considered desirable and not to continue the Electricity Duty Act which is very undesirable, having regard to the attitude taken up by the Government in regard to the request of the Calcutta Corporation.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Mr. Speaker, I may, Sir, frankly speaking, point out that this general discussion on the budget is absolutely useless. To me Sir, it is a sheer waste of time. I do not know whether law permits to curtail the time of general discussion on the budget and devote that time to useful discussion on important subjects. Sir, somebody may say that this is a very good budget; somebody may rise up and say that it is a very bad budget; somebody may say that it is an indifferent budget; or somebody may go one step further and say that there is no imagination in it. Somebody may, again, say that it is a mere conventional budget, but my past experience tells me that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will always remain indifferent to what we may say during the course of this general discussion on the budget. Sir, I would begin at once and will try to suggest—I am suggesting knowing full well that my suggestions will not be accepted by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister —by quoting from the Budget Speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, "Government have given careful consideration to the immense advantage that would be likely to accrue to the industrial development of the Province from a supply of cheap electrical energy, and a provision has accordingly been made in the Budget for undertaking an inquiry into the possibilities of generating and supplying electrical power on an extensive scale....." that Government are not earnest as regards nation-building projects. This is undoubtedly an ambitious scheme, and an enquiry is undoubtedly a necessity, but may I ask the Hon'ble the Finance Minister when, and whether, he will be in a position to convince the Cabinet to undertake such an enquiry, whether he will be able to convince the Hon'ble the Commerce Minister to undertake an enquiry regarding the generation of electricity for the purpose of supplying electrical energy at a cheaper rate to the people of Bengal. I am afraid, Sir, that, as long as the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation is here, the Hon'ble the Commerce Minister will not agree to undertake such an enquiry. I am, also, afraid that, if an enquiry is undertaken, its fate would be similar to that of the enquiry that was undertaken by Government in the year 1916.

Sir, as regards industry the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has suggested that the scheme "whose full operation will take three or four years, is being partially given effect to in the coming year," and he goes on to say: "I will narrate the main provisions which we have made in this connection. Twenty thousand has been provided for undertaking an expert enquiry into the possibilities of extension of industries on a large scale". This is his first suggestion. His second

suggestion is: "Provision has been made for the establishment of a scientific Advisory Council which will co-ordinate the results of the researches in the various technical and research institutes.....". And, thirdly, his suggestion is to establish: ".....new lines of research and advise Government in regard to scientific schemes and proposals mooted by the institutes. As a part of Government's programme, it is also proposed to establish an Industrial Intelligence Branch for the purpose of collecting information regarding the various aspects of industrial activity in the province." I very seriously suggest, Sir, that none of these will be fruitful if an enquiry is undertaken or an Advisory Council established. Particularly, Sir, we are already fed up with the intelligence of the Intelligence Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department! We do not like that another intelligence branch should be introduced in the Industries Department. (A VOICE: It is an unintelligent branch.) Sir, one of my friends suggests that it would be an unintelligent branch, that is going to be established.

To come to jute, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has suggested that he has ear-marked full one lakh of rupees for taking a census of jute. The other provision is one of ½ lakh for jute-restriction propaganda. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister, like myself and other honourable members of this House, who have got some interest in jute, knows full well that a jute census will be of no use——more particularly if a jute census is taken, it will yield no good result to the producers of jute. He also knows full well that the jute-restriction scheme of the Government of Bengal, which was undertaken year before last, absolutely failed, and it is no use spending another Rs. 50,000 for jute restriction propaganda. I may well suggest that this one lakh and fifty thousand be added to the five lakhs already provided for the spread of primary education in this province. I join hands with Mr. Khaitan with regard to the expenditure of one lakh that has been set apart for the construction of new buildings for the Bengal Legislative Council. I shall go further and say that the Legislative Council may easily sit in one of the Committee rooms of this building. The number of members of the Council is, as far as I remember, something between 60 and 65. These members can well be provided in one of the big rooms of this building, and in spite of this fact we are going to undertake a very heavy expenditure. I submit, Sir, that we are not in a position to spend Rs. 15 lakhs for the Council. Many of us on this side of the House do not at all approve of the idea of an Upper House, I mean the Bengal Legislative Council, for Bengal. Its existence here is against all democratic ideas and ideals and is also against all democratic principles and constitutional practices.

Sir, with regard to Youth Welfare proposals and Labour Welfare proposals, I also join hands with Mr. Khaitan. (THE HON'BLE MR. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Very bad company indeed!) The Hon'ble

the Finance Minister has not said anything about the Youth Welfare scheme for which he has ear-marked Rs. 2½ lakhs. With regard to Labour Welfare organizations, a small sum of Rs. 20,000 has been marked. If I remember aright, we failed to elicit information from the Hon'ble the Labour Minister regarding the amount set apart for this purpose in the preceding year. But, Sir, I must congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his generosity in setting apart Rs. 1,36,000 for the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital. I might say that this amount might have been increased, considering the growing demand for more seats in the hospitals generally. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister could have set apart another one lakh of rupees for the same hospital.

With regard to quinine distribution, I am very glad to find that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has raised the amount form 1½ lakhs to 4 lakhs of rupees, but I should like to suggest to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and, particularly, to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health to stop the distribution of quinine of the quality that is usually done in the rural areas of Bengal. So far as we know, Sir, quinine sulphate is generally distributed, as far as my district is concerned, I can say this without any fear of contradiction which, in the opinion of expetrs, is highly injurious to health and is not of much help in killing the germs of malaria. I suggest that quinine bi-hydrochloride, or quinine of better quality, be distributed in this province.

Before I analyze the funds that have been set apart for nation-building departments, I would like to suggest that the money that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has set apart is so small that it is better for him not to embark upon those nation-building activities, as he has suggested. In this connection I will summarise what he said. He has suggested and allotted some money—Rs. 5 lakhs—for the improvement of primary education and some money for the establishment of an agricultural institute at Dacca. A lump sum provision of Rs. 1 lakh for jute census establishment, establishment of industrial intelligence branch, rural water-supply and provision for the irrigation surveys including surveys in the Hooghly-Howrah area and the survey of what is known as the More project in the Birbhum district. In this connection I may say that he has left out my district and especially my constituency—Satkhira. In fact very recently the Minister in charge of Works and Communication paid a visit to that area and he appreciated the difficulties of that area, viz., want of proper irrigation in the entire subdivision, and he has also understood very well the difficulties with regard to the health and crop of that entire subdivision. I would like to suggest that if there is any possibility of any scheme I will suggest to the Hon'ble Minister to include Satkhira in his scheme. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in the end has drawn up a

vivid picture of the danger latent in the present condition, that is he has spoken frankly of the danger of socialism that is to come in Bengal, nay in India, very soon. It is for the Government to consider the matter, more particularly for the members of the Cabinet, to consider this matter seriously. In the budget speech the Hon'ble the Finance Minister suggested that bad time may come. This is undoubtedly, as he has said, a budget of good time; but bad time may come. Bad time to my mind is coming very soon. So it is the duty of the Cabinet to see that no drastic measure is taken against the rising of the *krishaks* of Bengal and the idea of general awakening which is characterised by some of the critics that it is a socialistic move and a ruinous move, which will crush the middle-class of Bengal, both Hindus and Muhammadans. I should like to suggest that while giving employment or suggesting to give employment to the unemployed youths, he has said that more or less 10,000 people may be provided in the schemes he has suggested in the course of his budget speech. But I should also like to suggest that the provision he has made for the current year is quite inadequate to provide so many people.

Again, the amount that has been set apart for the Bengal Bratachari Society ought not to have been given at all. With regard to this society I will not say anything at present; but I say that the Hon'ble Minister has given only Rs. 1,000 for the Servants of Humanity Society: we do not know what is Servants of Humanity Society. May I ask the Hon'ble Minister whether it is the Khadem Samity, which is really doing humanitarian work, or another bogus humanity society that has recently been started for the children of the labourers here and there. If that money was given to the Servants of Humanity Society—I mean the Khadem Society, they could further their work and improve the conditions, both moral and physical, in the manner they are doing.

With regard to deputing officers to Denmark and to other foreign countries to acquire knowledge in co-operative works. Mr. Gupta has said all that can be said in that connection. With regard to certain officers—(here the member reached his time limit and was allowed one minute to continue)—if I have got any knowledge and experience of the Education Department of the Government of Bengal I can at once say that Mr. J. M. Sen who is one of the officers of the Education Department can well suggest improvement of the primary education in Bengal without the need of sending more people to England or to other places for learning the working method of primary education.

With regard to deputing 2 or 3 officers to Denmark for learning co-operative work it is also useless. It is an admission on the part of Government that they have got no expert in that department. Why should it be considered that Bengal has got no officer expert in Economics and allied subjects who can give better suggestion to Government. It is also a sheer waste of time as well as of money: that money

may easily be set apart for rural uplift, particularly for primary education in *Bengal*.

Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, once again I stand to raise my voice to plead the cause of primary and female education in this Province. In August last, while discussing the budget for the current year, I made a grievance that the expenditure for female education has not been shown separately. The grievance still continues, for the mention of a single provision of Rs. 70,663 for grants to girls' schools under sub-head "Direct grants to non-Government secondary schools" (p. 239), there is no separate provision for female education either under the sub-head "colleges" or "primary education" or under any other sub-head. The provision for girls' education and boys' education have been put together making it impossible to judge how far the Government is keeping pace with the growing demands for the education of girls.

In his introductory speech, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has told us that about 1½ lakhs has been provided for additional grants to girls' schools. This suggests that the provision for grants to secondary schools is at least Rs. 2,20,000 higher than that of last year. But the total provision under the sub-head "Direct grants to non-Government secondary schools" is Rs. 15,51,000 against Rs. 13,81,000 in the revised budget for 1937-38, which means a total increase of only Rs. 1,70,000. It is therefore sufficient to find out the increase of Rs. 1½ lakhs and Rs. 70,000 supposed to have been made in the two items. I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will throw some more light on the matter.

Then again as I have said there is a provision of Rs. 70,663 on account of grant to girls' schools. Is this the whole provision for girls' schools or is this the additional provision? If this is the additional provision, it should have been so stated. If it is the whole provision I do not know how the Hon'ble Minister tells us that an additional provision of Rs. 70,000 has been made for girls' schools.

An additional provision of little more than one lakh has been made for non-Government Arts Colleges. It would be interesting to know how much of this will be directed towards girls' colleges and on what basis will the distribution be made.

Last time I pointed out how disproportionate was the expenditure for grants to colleges in comparison with the lavish expenditure on colleges maintained by Government. The total provision for grants to non-Government Arts Colleges (both boys and girls) is Rs. 3,99,000. This is the amount that is to be distributed amongst 36 colleges in Bengal where as the expenditure on eight Government colleges runs up to Rs. 15,09,000. Private colleges always run through financial difficulties. The teachers are ill-paid. Equipments are inadequate. But higher education in this province is mainly carried on through private colleges. Would it be too much to expect that Government

will look more favourably on these institutions than it has hitherto done? The colleges for girls should receive special attention.

While on this subject, I want to record my emphatic protest against the idea of a purdah college for girls. This, I know, is a concession to some of our Muhammadan friends who wanted a separate college for Muslim girls. We have been told that as sufficient number of Muslim girls was not forthcoming, the college would be open to other communities also and hence this ingenious name of a purdah college. But is not purdah absolutely inconsistent with the idea of higher education? My friend Mrs. Hasina Murshed, raised the demand for a Muslim college last August, but did she ask for a purdah college? Does she observe purdah? Does she want that our sisters belonging to her community will have higher education, yet they will not be encouraged to take part in public affairs as she is doing?

In the same speech in August last Mrs. Hasina Murshed asked for the employment of competent lady doctors to replace the male experts in midwifery at Government hospitals. But where will the lady doctors come from? Will the purdah college be followed up by purdah medical colleges?

I wonder if we are moving forward or progressing backward.

I ask the House to ponder seriously over these implications and aftereffects of this new innovation in the educational sphere. It is not a question of few lakhs of rupees. The Hon'ble Minister has referred to the danger of allowing wealth to accumulate in isolated crevices. The danger of allowing education to be imparted in isolated crevices will be no less.

Already the communalists are fighting each other for nothing. Let us not help in separating them further. I do not grudge my Muslim and Scheduled Caste brethren who are admittedly backward in education the advantage of special stipends for education in schools and colleges but I do not see why scholarships for higher study in foreign countries should also be reserved on communal considerations; only the best of our students to whatever community they may belong should be sent up for foreign education at public expense. There must be a limit to communal preferences.

Last time, I drew attention to the want of sufficient hostel accommodation for girl students in Calcutta. This is a problem which we must tackle. Is it too late to suggest that the provision of Rs. 5 lakhs for the purdah college be diverted for hostel accommodation for Hindu and Muhammadan girls in Calcutta?

Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me.

Mrs. HASINA MURSHED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it was during the Government which existed under the Morley-Minto Scheme that the present Chief Minister as one of the Hon'ble Members of the

then Legislative Council of Bengal, observed in one of his budget speeches that they were in theory the chosen representatives of the people but that in point of fact their voice in changing the figures was no more effective than the breath of so many fans that revolved over their heads, or that of the proverbial man in the moon. We hope, Sir, we have survived that stage; and we hope too that our voice to-day is entitled to more than the customary respect that is due to that of the man in the moon. If so, I should like to place before the Treasury Bench for their very serious consideration some suggestions with regard to the Budget.

Turning to the Budget Statement, we must, I think, admit that there is much in it on which the present ministry may well congratulate themselves; but at the same time we cannot help feeling that some of the major problems of the country have not been approached and tackled in the way they deserved. In his statement, the Hon'ble Finance Minister seems to have disposed of the vast problem of middle-class unemployment in two short paragraphs. This is a problem which, on his own showing, is the most baffling of all our problems and one should have thought that greater interest, more care and more sympathy might have been evinced in studying and tackling this problem.

We are told that schemes have been launched which will find employment for some more officers, some more clerks, and some more peons. I do not under-rate the value of opening these fresh channels of more employment—however modest or inadequate they might be; but what I wish to emphasise and very strongly emphasise is, that the problem of middle class unemployment is one which cannot be solved by creating a few more posts here or a few more there; for, this will what the desire for looking to Government service as the only source of an honourable livelihood or as the one ultimate ambition of the unemployed middle class. It is clearly impossible to solve this problem by anything which is calculated to develop, in the unemployed middle class youths, that mentality which pathetically looks to Government service as the only saviour from starvation, that mentality which anxiously seeks in every morning paper an advertisement for a vacancy in a public office. The appointment of a Special Employment Adviser, of which the Finance Minister has given us notice, will help to solve the unemployment problem of one person, namely, that of the man who will be appointed to that job but of no one else; it is a mistake to make the people "Service-minded". This will tend to paralyse enterprise in other directions. The root cause of this appalling unemployment lies in the absence of large scale industries. No country in the world has ever been able to solve her economic problems without the help of large scale industries. I respectfully dissent from the Hon'ble Finance Minister's dictum in his budget statement which

states that "Our aim is to resurrect the average man, who in this predominantly agricultural country, is the cultivator." That should not be the only objective. Our objective should comprise not only a scheme of resurrection of the moribund cultivator but also, of the creation of the industrialist. We must industrialise the country and divert the army of the unemployed middle class to industry. Here again I dissent from the view expressed by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget statement that the scope for direct action by Government in large scale industry is very limited and we have mainly to depend on private enterprise. That is a view which perhaps holds good in a country in which the development of her industries has reached a stage of equilibrium at which private enterprise can carry it on without further assistance from the State; but to apply this theory to a country like ours, which has just entered the threshold of autonomy is nothing short of a calamity. Twenty thousand, which the Finance Minister tells us, has been provided for a committee of experts to enquire into the possibilities of extension of industries on a large scale is, I think, both inadequate and misplaced. To start with, I think Government should subsidize such large scale industries run by private enterprise as already exist. These existing industries should be helped to develop. My knowledge of such enterprises is too limited to enable me to offer any useful advice; but to give only one example I would mention the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works which have been doing very good work. Why not give increasing subventions to such industries as these on condition that they employ men of various communities in suitable proportion? They will expand, they will pursue their work in fresh fields and will gradually employ and absorb our unemployed young men? We do not believe in Expert Enquiry Committees. They suck our money and in the end produce nothing which can be turned to good account. They merely write essays which could be had much cheaper. Instead of appointing an Expert Committee for investigating the possibilities of large scale industries, why not put a price on the best essay on the subject? We will get more substance at less cost. The problem of industrialisation must not be tinkered with. Government should not go into inactivity by an appeal to the theory that it is no concern of theirs. We refuse to accept the theory that it is not the primary concern of the State to assist financially and in every way possible the development of industry. It is the supreme duty of Government to carry on vigorous propaganda in favour of the growth of industry by peripatetic lectures, by granting subventions to existing industries; and above all by giving guarantees to private enterprise of a certain minimum return for their capital. This is not a new theory. Government have already given guarantees to railway companies. Why not give similar guarantees to suitable industries? Why not send young men to foreign countries to specialise in the various branches of

industrial occupation? It is a shame that for almost every article of our daily use we have to depend on the import of foreign countries. If Government give guarantees of a certain minimum return for the capital outlay, there will be no dearth of capitalists who will come forward to start large scale production of various articles. We refuse to hear the echo of the past age that it is none of the business of Government to take direct action in the matter of large scale industries. Government must inculcate progressive ideas and not merely rest contented with the granting of negligible subventions to some weaving institutes here, or some peripatetic weaving schools there. These are small enterprises and do not solve the unemployment problem nor help the growth of better industries. We must direct our attention to better fields. The manufacture of motor cars, engines, steamships, cycles, instruments of all kinds, cutleries, medicines, things like these too numerous to be mentioned should be our aim. We must select some of these things and attempt a large scale production with Government guarantees.

In the budget statement, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that a lump provision of a lakh of rupees has been made for a jute census. This proceeds on the wrong assumption that its supply and demand require adjustment and that restriction in the produce of jute is essential, I am not an expert on this subject, but I submit that the chief difficulty lies not in the supposed over-production but in the lack of facilities for the free flow of this produce. Instead of providing a lakh of rupees for jute census, I think a more sensible proposition would be to stimulate the growth of a net-work of ware houses as close to the jute growing centres as possible. These ware houses would serve as storage for the local produce. They would pay the cultivator promptly for the goods he delivers; and they would tranship them to proper quarters. The cultivator will get his price promptly and will thus be relieved of his wants. He will give up speculation which is always an uncertain and a risky affair. This will also eventually standardise the price. The problem is to get such ware houses established. This can be done by giving guarantees to private enterprise. The time has come when we must tackle the industrial and agricultural problems of the country in the light of the autonomy that is supposed to have been given to us and not in the light of an order of things which is fast receding into past history in which the level of industrialisation reached no higher than the making of baskets of the primitive type and other kindred things catalogued in the Finance Minister's budget statement.

I am prepared to concede that the attack of these problems involves money. Let an estimate be prepared of our wants and let ways and means be devised to raise the money. If money is needed, it must be found. Our colleagues have, from time to time, suggested various

retrenchments and encouraged by such precedents I venture to offer some suggestions for retrenchment. In this country the bulk of magisterial work is done by Stipendiary Magistrates. I think the time has come when these duties could be safely entrusted on an honorary basis to respectable non-officials with the necessary training. In fact, there already exist such Honorary Magistrates. Is there any reason why the entire bulk of this work cannot be done by Honorary Magistrates? I cannot assess the exact amount of saving that would thus accrue as I am unable to discover how much of the rupees thirty lakhs thirty thousand which appears against "pay of officers" voted under the head "E—District Administration" on page 103 of the Civil Budget Estimate, accounts for magisterial work done by the Stipendiary Magistrates. But I think a very considerable saving would accrue if all magisterial work were in future done by Honorary Magistrates of the right type. This reform will also produce a salutary reaction in other directions.

Before I conclude I should like to point out that in the field of education the budget is disappointing.

Five lakhs for Primary Education in a country where a scheme of Free and Compulsory Primary Education costs something like two and a quarter crores, is a mere drop in the ocean; and we do hope adequate provision will be made in the future budget for this. I confess that it was with mixed feelings that I noticed on page 22 of the Civil Works Budget estimate that a provision of rupees two lakhs, out of five lakhs, has been provided for a "Purdah College." We fail to understand the implication of this expression. We have been hoping to have an exclusively Moslem Girls' College but it is nowhere mentioned in the budget estimates that the proposed college would be for the Moslems exclusively. If it is not, we consider that an explanation is due as to why this fact has not been mentioned in the budget estimates. We insist that the college should be exclusively set apart for Moslems, for otherwise Moslem girls will refuse to enrol themselves. It has been said that the number of Moslem girls is too small for the college in question. But I may safely predict that the number of girls will increase to such as will necessitate another college when this proposed college has been started. If I remember aright, the number of girls was only 2 when the Bethune College was established, but the number has now come to be an overwhelming one.

I have scanned the pages of the budget in vain for some provision for such desirable schemes as grants-in-aid for the old scheme madrasahs, Tibbiya college, etc. The old scheme madrasahs are starved and their extinction is threatened. These madrasahs play a very important part in the building of Islamic culture and as such their extinction cannot be viewed with equanimity.

Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have come to learn from the statement made by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in presenting the budget for the year 1938-39 that the year under purview will close with a surplus. But a surplus budget is not always a satisfactory one. It may be a disappointing one, if the demands of the nation-building departments are neglected.

Sir, I think, the budget estimate for the coming year is a modified and improved one and not a stereotyped budget as in the past. I am going to invite the earnest attention of the House along with the Cabinet to one or two important heads only as the time limit at my disposal is very limited.

There are certain departments of public interest. Education is the first of all. So far as the question of primary education is concerned, my only submission is this that other demands of public interest may be delayed but primary education which is the immediate demand of the country cannot be deferred. So it should, at an early date, be introduced throughout the province of Bengal, without taxation and should be made free and compulsory. Money should be provided for it and there should be no question of want of fund. Money is available as there has been a surplus amounting to about one crore and ninety-one lakhs. Moreover, there can be cuts in the salaries of Government officers as in other provinces for making provision for the spread of primary education among the illiterate masses which form 90 per cent. of the population of Bengal. Bengal, you know, is too poor to bear the education cess. It is already overburdened.

You will find on page 90 of the explanatory memorandum of the budget for the coming year that there is a long list of contributions to the welfare of education. Look at the pages of the red book and you will find evidence of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister's diligence and keenness and of his fairness in distributing what he had to do. There is no doubt that the Finance Minister this time has placed the budget before us in a better condition than it was before, yet it is not quite up to expectation.

You all know and are fully convinced that members of the scheduled castes are mostly backward in education. But the amount of Rs. 30,000 which has been provided for students belonging to the scheduled castes for special stipends and scholarships are very insufficient in consideration of their numerical strength. So I request the Cabinet with all earnestness to engage its constant attention to the welfare and uplift of the scheduled castes.

However, I offer the Finance Minister his due share of commendation he deserves, for the partial improvement he has made in the budget.

Sir, in Appendix II attached to the Finance Minister's statement we all find that there has been an increase as compared with the revised

budget estimate of the current year, in almost all the departments of public interest, such as, Education, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture and Co-operation. But to our utter surprise, we find that the popular Government has made the biggest increase under the head "Civil Works" which is quite apparent if we look into it. We find in the list of contributions under the head "Civil Works" that Rs. 2,00,000 has been provided for the establishment of a purdah college for girls. I cannot but call it a waste of public money. In these days of female emancipation we find hardly any need of a purdah college for girls. To-day or to-morrow we may find some girls for the proposed college but in future it will be very difficult to have girls for the purdah college.

It is the age of work. Nobody, either male or female, can remain in-door. It has been enacted under the new Constitution that even ladies are eligible for some of the Government services, if not all. So in my opinion, this money could have been better utilised had it been spent for the spread of primary education.

In addition to this, we find that a sum of Rs. 17,33,248 is proposed to be spent for the construction or extension of new or old buildings, as the case may be. Sir, is it not high time to curtail such lavish expenditure?

In the last budget session it was announced by Government that a sum of about Rs. 4,500 would be provided for special stipends and scholarships for scheduled caste girls, but it is a matter of great regret that no such thing has been done in this budget. Then, I am to understand that Government do not give their due consideration to the just and proper demands of the scheduled castes?

I have already said that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has provided bigger sums this year for almost all the items of expenditure on public welfare, but, I am afraid, this money will be spent after the maintenance of some additional officers and it will not be applied to do any good to the country.

There is no denying the fact that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has tried his level best to make an equitable distribution of what he has in his budget, but he has utterly forgotten to better the sad lot and the pecuniary condition of the masses whom we represent here.

With these few words, Sir, I conclude my budget speech.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Mr. J. C. Gupta in initiating the general discussion of the budget——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is he the Finance Minister?

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: You may call him the Finance Minister some day but not to-day.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: The Hon'ble the Finance Minister is not in the Chamber now when the budget discussion is going on. May I enquire whether he had taken your consent before leaving the Chamber?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, he had my consent.

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Yes, he took Mr. Speaker's consent and also requested me to take notes of the discussion on his behalf.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: We may then take it that you are acting as the Finance Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: No, I am not. I am only helping him by taking notes of the discussion during his absence.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: ——gave a left-handed compliment to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister when he said that being brought up, trained, nurtured on Congress programme, Congress policy and Congress ideal, the budget that he has produced is not its test. I think when he said so, my friend gave out the reflection of his own mind and a picture of the training that he and his party have got, because he has said there is tall talk but there is little work in it. I think that is the training of the Congress——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bari, I would advise you to discuss the budget, leaving aside the training of the Congress.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Now, Sir, coming to the question of the Purdah College, much has been said against the proposed Purdah College. I do not know, Sir, what the Hon'ble Minister means by the Purdah College. All that I know is that perhaps he means the establishment of a Moslem girls' college. That is no doubt a desideratum and that is one of the demands of the entire Moslem community living in Bengal and that demand has been ignored so long, and time has now come when that demand is going to be fulfilled. The pledge is going to be redeemed. Therefore, Sir, all those who are going to talk against this Moslem girls' college are indeed trying to deny the right of education to the Moslem girls. Sir, it has been said by many of the speakers that separatism is not wanted, that communalism is not wanted. We also do not advocate communalism, but we want that education must be given on whatever basis it is possible, be it through separate colleges, be it through one college, be it in any way whatever possible. And if you deny the Moslem girls'

education in a separate college, then you also deny Moslem students' education in the madrassahs, maktabs and other systems and deny Hindu students having education in the tolls and things like that. Therefore, Sir, you also deny the Hindu students having education in the Sanskrit College and the Vidyasagar College. Therefore, Sir, the question of separatism and communalism does not come in. Particularly also I would appeal to my friends who have spoken so much against this so-called Purdah College or the Moslem girls' college, whatever it may be, to bear in mind that the whole world does not see eye to eye with them. The whole Moslem community has not been trained and brought up in the same atmosphere in which they have been, and I will also ask my friend Mr. Abdul Hakim to remember that those who are better and well placed in life may afford to give up purdah, may afford to send their girls to the ordinary general colleges. But there are others, and the number of them is perhaps 99·9 per cent. who live in the villages and who refuse to send their girls to those ordinary colleges for reasons which are various and manifold. Now, Sir, you will kindly remember that the Moslem parents, the Moslem guardians have got some prejudices no doubt. You will have to respect the prejudices so long as those prejudices are not removed. They are not willing to send their children, send their girls to colleges to have education with males to have education under the training of male teachers and so on and so forth. Therefore, you cannot abuse the establishment of a Moslem girls' college.

Then, Sir, I will also ask you to remember particularly that it is said that for a dozen or half a dozen girls this college is going to be started as was stated by Mr. Khaitan. My friend Mrs. Hasina Murshed told you that even the Bethune College was started only with two girls at the very beginning though that college is now giving education to more than 300 to 400 girls of this province.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Are you going back to the eighteenth century?

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: I am not, but when you concede that the Moslems are backward in education you may think that the Moslems are in the eighteenth century. We cannot ignore the fact. So, if you accept that you will have to concede also that the girls' college is a necessity so far as the Moslems are concerned. Then again, Sir, perhaps you will be surprised to know from me that only the other day a Moslem Councillor—I will not name him—who belongs to the Bengal Legislative Council was telling me that he dropped tears and actually cried when he received a letter from his daughter who is a student of the Bethune College here in Calcutta. It will not be quite well for me to give the full details of that letter. But one or two sentences of that letter which was shown to me will give you an idea of the

horrible state of things that has been prevailing there so far as the Moslem girls are concerned. You will be pained to hear that there are some girls who go to the boarding house of the Moslem girls within the college when they say their prayers, and they try to prevent them in every possible way, (Question) and they also try to mimic the prayer calls. When these girls say "Allah ho Akbar" those from outside say "Alla ho Akbar", and this letter says that even these girls say that they are Jabans and things like that. (Shame, shame from Moslem benches.) The Muhammadan girls cannot bear for a moment such a treatment when they get it from their sisters in the Bethune College. Again, Sir, I will ask you to remember the day when the Diocesan College was searched during the terrorist regime and what things were found from the boxes of the girls. I will not say what it was, but I will say this much that that state of things ought not to be allowed to prevail in Bengal particularly where the daughters and sisters of the people are going to be respected.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is really all wrong.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Therefore, Sir, I say that the necessity of a Purdah College or of a Moslem girls' college in Calcutta is a real necessity no doubt.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: On a point of order, Sir. Is it fair, is it honourable on the part of an hon'ble member of this House to go on discussing what things came out in the course of a police search in the boxes of some ladies in the Diocesan College?

Mr. SPEAKER: I must say that while discussing the budget I would expect a certain amount of restraint being exercised by everybody, but my function can only come in if it goes beyond the limit. And while the question of prudence and restraint is a matter entirely for the individual judgment of the speaker, my function could not come in unless he goes unparliamentary. I was carefully watching, and he did not say anything by which I can rule him out of order. In the meantime I would request Mr. Abdul Bari to keep to his points and not discuss matters which are not strictly relevant.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: I was only placing facts, and I did not discuss them. Then again, Sir, in passing I may enquire of my friend Miss Mira Dutta Gupta who is the Vice-Principal of the Vidyasagar College whether Muhammadan girls are admitted in their college. I think my friend will say "no". If that be so, what is the objection if the Moslems claim a separate college for their girls. So long as you do not abolish the Sanskrit College, so long as you do not abolish the Metropolitan College, so long as you do not abolish the Vidyasagar

College, and you ask the Muhammadans in all fairness not to have a college separately for them.

Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA: There is no Government grant for the Vidyasagar College.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: I leave it at that. With these remarks I would ask my friend Mr. Abdul Hakim and those others who talked against it to revise their opinions in the light of the observations that I have made.

Now, coming to the budget itself, the budget has been criticised. It should be criticized and we welcome criticism. But my reading of the budget is that it forebodes the making of a better, a happier and a prosperous Bengal. The present budget does not trod upon the old trodden track. The present budget gives some scent of the hand of a popular Ministry. Because we find herein the mention of lakhs of rupees as provision for improvement of agriculture, for improvement of industries, for improvement of education, for improvement of public health and sanitation. Of course, I do not say that that is enough. It is not enough, it is too small, but it only shows that a beginning has been made and they have started on the right track, and I am sure that if things like this be allowed to continue for a number of years and if this process is accelerated, then certainly within a few years we shall find our mother country in a better position, in a happier position than what we find to-day. Then again, Sir, we should also congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the Ministers in general, for unlike the old Government, there has been some indication of a reponse to the popular will. During the last budget discussion we emphasized that the revisional settlement should go. We said that provision should be made for grant in the Tuberculosis Hospital. We said that detenus should be released, and to-day we find from the budget itself that the revisional settlement has gone. it is no more, and therefore we have got a sum of Rs. 4,00,000. Then for the Tuberculosis Hospital a grant has been made though Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy criticised that the full amount that was the demand has not been given. Yet I did not find any meaning in criticising it unless criticism is made for the sake of criticism itself, and not for a happier end of it.

Then, Sir, with respect to the release of the detenus, of course we congratulate the Ministers that they have been able to release 1,100, but we must also demand at the same time that though Deoli Detention Camp has been abolished, the Berhampore Detention camp should also be abolished, and these are the detenus who are rotting in the cells behind the prison bars and they should be released. It has also been stated times without number by the Hon'ble Minister that their policy is the release of the detenus. Of course, I am not speaking about the political prisoners and I would also expect the Hon'ble the

Home Minister to see that all the political prisoners who are still behind the prison bars should be freed, so that a sum of a few lakhs of rupees may be again available for the purpose of primary education. Then, Sir, I must also accuse the Ministry, because they are not working with much push and dash. There is much scope, Sir, for retrenchment. There is much scope for improvement and I may tell the Hon'ble the Home Minister that so far as some posts are concerned, there is absolutely no necessity for it. There is a huge waste of public money so far as the posts of the Divisional Commissioners are concerned. Why do you keep the Divisional Commissioners? Why don't you abolish the posts of Divisional Commissioners and along with them the whole office staff and his office. That will give us some lakhs of rupees. But what is the work done by them after all? The Divisional Commissioners serve the purpose of merely a post office. There is the District Magistrate: The District Magistrate can write direct to the departments and to the various authorities. So the Divisional Commissioner will be a non-entity. Practically, he is doing no work. Therefore, it is my suggestion that the posts should be abolished. May I be given a few minutes more, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: No. there are so many other members.

Mrs. HEMAPROVA MAJUMDAR:

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, অর্থ সচীব মহোদয় তাঁর বাজেট স্পীচে যে সারগর্ভ বক্তৃতার অবতারণা কোরেছেন তা শুনে আমরা যুগপৎ বিস্মিত ও হতাশ হয়েছি। তাঁর বহ্নাড়ম্বর দেশকে বেশ একটু চমৎকৃত কোরেছে। তাঁর খরচের স্কীম্ যে ভাবে নানা দিকে দ্রুত গতিতে অগ্রসর হচ্চে দেশের লোকের "ডালভাতের" ব্যবস্থাটা যদি তত শীঘ্র হতো, তবে, আমার মনে হয়, দেশবাসী দুবেলা দুমুঠো খেয়ে বাঁচতো। কিন্তু তা না কোরে তিনি নিজের লোকের মন রক্ষার্থে যে ভাবে ছিটা ফোঁটা কৃপা বর্ষণ কোরেছেন, তাহা দ্বারা আমরা দেশের জনসাধারণ আশার ক্ষীণ আলোকও দেখতে পাচ্ছিনে। পল্লীসংস্কার সম্বন্ধে তিনি যে বিবৃতি দিয়েছেন তাতে প্রকৃত কিছু কাজ হবে বোলে আমার বিশ্বাস হয় না। পল্লীসংস্কারের ভিতর তিনি কেবল ট্রেইনিংএরই বহর দেখিয়েছেন, জনসাধারণের প্রকৃত হিতের জন্য কিছুই করেন নি। অর্থ সচিব মহাশয়কে আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি দেশবন্ধু পল্লীসংস্কার সমিতিতে যে ট্রেইনিং দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছিলো—তাহা দ্বারা পল্লীর কি কাজ অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছিলো এবং ট্রেইনিং প্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তিদের কত জন দেশের কাজে লেগেছিল তা আমরা না জানলেও অর্থ সচিব মহাশয় বেশ ভালরকমই জানেন, কারণ সেই স্কীমের মধ্যে অর্থসচীব মহাশয় একজন বিশিষ্ট সভ্য ছিলেন পরন্তু সেই স্কীমের তিনি একজন প্রধান উদ্যোক্তাও বটে। তাঁর বর্ত্তমান বিবৃতি পূর্ব্বোক্ত দেশবন্ধু পল্লীসংস্কার সমিতির পুরাতন বুলি নূতন কোরে উচ্চারণ করা ব্যতীত আর কিছুই নয়। কাজেই পূর্ব্ব অভিজ্ঞতার ফলে আমাদের মনে এই ধারণা হচ্চে যে আবার সেই ট্রেইনিংএর নামে কতকগুলি অকারণে খরচ হবে মাত্র, লাভ বিশেষ কিছুই হবে না। সুতরাং তিনি এই ট্রেইনিংএর জন্য যে টাকা খরচ করবেন বোলে মনস্থ কোরেছেন সেই টাকাটা ডালভাতের একটা নিশ্চিন্ত ব্যবস্থার জন্য খরচ কোরে দুঃস্থ কৃষকদের প্রকৃত হিতসাধন করুন। তাহলে প্রধান মন্ত্রীকেও ডালভাতের সমস্যা নিয়ে আর বিব্রত

হোতে হবে না। তাই তাঁকে আমার বিশেষ অনুরোধ পূর্ব গভর্ণমেণ্টের মতন তিনি যেন ফুরো কথায় দেশকে আর ভোলাতে চেষ্টা না করেন, এবং প্রকৃত কাজ যেটা—অর্থাৎ দেশের সেই ডালভাতের ব্যবস্থা যাতে কোরে হয় সেই পন্থা অবলম্বন কোরে তিনি যেন "পপুলার গভর্ণমেণ্টের" সুনাম বজায় রাখেন।

শিল্প সম্বন্ধে আমার বক্তব্য এই যে তাঁর প্রদত্ত স্কীম আমাদের বিশেষ কোন কাজে লাগবে বোলে আমার মনে হয় না। তিনি হাজারে হাজারে টাকা খরচ কোরে কেবল বোর্ডই ফরমেশন (formation) কোরছেন—ইন্‌কোয়ারী বোর্ড, এডভাইসারি বোর্ড এবং শেষ পর্যন্ত ইণ্ডাষ্ট্রিয়াল্ ইণ্টেলিজেন্স ব্রাঞ্চ পর্যন্ত স্থাপিত হচ্ছে। এতকাল পলিটিকেল ইন্‌টেলিজেন্স ব্রাঞ্চ আমাদের কত ব্যতিব্যস্ত কোরেছে এবং এখনো কোরচে, সুতরাং আমার ভয় হয় শেষটায় এই ইণ্ডাষ্ট্রিয়েল্ ইণ্টেলিজেন্স ব্রাঞ্চ ভিটে ছাড়া না কোরে বসে। এই সব ব্রাঞ্চ ফরমেশন্ না কোরে তিনি যদি ঐ টাকাগুলো যেখানে কুটীর শিল্প কিছু আগেও বর্ত্তমান ছিল বা এখনো আছে সেগুলির পুনরুদ্ধার বা পুনর্জীবন কল্পে এবং শিল্পজাত দ্রব্যের সহজ ক্রয় বিক্রয়ের ব্যবস্থা করেন তাহলে দেশের প্রকৃত উপকার হোতে পারে। আর যদি একান্তই বোর্ড ফরমেশন করার মনস্থ কোরে থাকেন তবে সেটা তাঁর পারিষদবর্গের দ্বারাই বিনা খরচায় কোরতে পারেন এবং তাঁদের কো-অপারেশন ও ইণ্টেলিজেন্সের হেলথে ভালো ফলই পেতে পারেন। দ্বিতীয়তঃ তিনি যে তাঁর স্কীমে শিল্প ট্রেইনিংএর জন্য লাখ্ লাখ্ টাকা ব্যয়ের বরাদ্দ ধোরেছেন—সেটাও দেখতে পাচ্চে বাংলার মাত্র ২।৩টী জেলার জন্য। যথা—ঢাকা, শ্রীরামপুর এবং বহরমপুর বিশেষ কোরে এই তিনটে জেলাই যে—তিনি শিল্প ট্রেনিংএর জন্য কেন নির্ব্বাচন কোরেছেন তা তিনিই জানেন, বাংলার জনসাধারণের তাতে বিশেষ কোন উপকার হবে না। তাছাড়া এর আর একটা কুফল এই হবে যে—এই সব ট্রেইনিং প্রাপ্ত যুবকগণ দেশের বেকার সংখ্যা আরো বৃদ্ধি কোরতে থাকবে। সুতরাং এদিক দিয়েও—এই ট্রেইনিংএর জন্য টাকা খরচ না কোরে—বাংলার যেখানে ২ কুটীর শিল্প আছে তার সর্বত্র এবং বাংলার যে সব শিল্প শুধু ভারতে নয় সারা পৃথিবী ব্যাপী সুনাম অর্জ্জন কোরেছিলো যেমন ঢাকাই মসলিন, মুর্শিদাবাদী সিল্ক, বিষ্ণুপুরের তসর, ইত্যাদির পুনরুদ্ধার কল্পে যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট অর্থ সাহায্য করেন তাহলে পূর্বোক্ত শিল্পগুলি এবং আরো অনেক শিল্প যা নাকি অর্থাভাবে মৃত প্রায় হ'য়ে রয়েছে—তারা আবার পুনর্জীবিত হ'য়ে পূর্ব গৌরব লাভ কোরতে পারবে।

অর্থসচীব মহোদয়ের আর একটী স্কীম আমার বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ কোরেছে। সেটী হচ্চে তার মধ্যবর্ত্তি বেকারের সংখ্যা সমাধান। সেজন্যে তিনি অনেক কষ্ট স্বীকার কোরছেন দেখতে পাই; কিন্তু প্রকৃত সমস্যার কিছু সমাধান হয়েছে বলে মনে হয় না। দশ হাজার কেরাণীকুলের সংস্থান—যাদের বেতন ১০৲ টাকা হোতে ৫০৲ টাকার মধ্যে, তার জন্য অর্থসচীব মহোদয় এত আস্ফালন না কোরে যদি তাদের ব্যবসায়ে নিযুক্ত কোরে ঐ অর্থ সাহায্যের দ্বারা তাদের প্রত্যেককে প্রকৃত মানুষ হবার সুযোগ দিতেন তাহলে প্রকৃতই দেশের ও দশের উপকার হোতো। তা না কোরে ১০।২০ হাজার অসহায় কেরানী সৃষ্টি করা মোটেই সুবুদ্ধির পরিচায়ক বোলে আমি মনে করি না এবং তার জন্য এত উল্লাসেরও কোন প্রয়োজন দেখিনা। পরিশেষে অর্থসচীব মহোদয়, তাঁর সহকর্ম্মিগণ, এবং বিশেষ কোরে হাউসের মেম্বরদের প্রতি আমার অনুরোধ—তাঁরা যেন এদেশের জনসাধারণের প্রকৃত অভাব কি এবং তা নিবারণের প্রকৃষ্ট উপায়ই বা কি—তা যেন স্থির চিত্তে চিন্তা করেন এবং সেই বিষয়ের সমাধান কল্পে নিজেদের নিয়োজিত করেন। তাঁদের প্রতি আমার আরো নিবেদন এই যে—তাঁরা যেন ফুরো কথার মায়াজালে জনসাধারণকে ভোলাবার চেষ্টা থেকে বিরত হোয়ে তাদের প্রকৃত অভাব

অভিযোগ অভিনিবেশ সহকারে শ্রবণ করেন এবং তাদের আপন জনের মতন আশ্রয় দাবী কোরে ভগবানের আশীর্বাদ অর্জ্জন করেন। আমি কায়মনোবাক্যে ভগবানের নিকট প্রার্থনা করি—তিনি আপনাদের দেশের প্রকৃত হিতার্থে নিয়োজিত করুন।

সর্ব্বশেষে আমার কোয়ালিশন পার্টির নিকট বিনীত প্রার্থনা এই যে—তাঁরা যেন দেশের ভাইদের কথা মনে করে দৃঢ়চিত্তে অন্যায়ের বিরুদ্ধে দণ্ডায়মান হন। আপনারা আর সন্দেহসঙ্কুল হয়ে দোলায়মান চিত্তে থাকবেন না। আপনারা স্থির চিত্ত হবামাত্রই দেখতে পাবেন, আপনাদের শক্তির উপর স্থাপিত নেতৃবর্গ দেশের এবং দশের হিতার্থে নিজেদের নিয়োজিত কোরেছেন, দেশের প্রকৃত জনপ্রিয় প্রতিনিধি বোলে পরিগণিত হয়েছেন। আপনারা অযথা নিজেদের দুর্ব্বল ভেবে বিবেকের বিরুদ্ধে তাঁদের সমর্থন কোরতে ব্যস্ত হবেন না। যে ঘরের ভিত্তি দুর্ব্বল সে ঘর বাইরের ঝড় ঝঞ্ঝা সামলাতে পারে না, কাজেই সে ঘরকে ঝড়ের বেগে নুয়ে পড়তে হয়। যারা নিজেদের বিবেকের বিরুদ্ধে কাজ করে ভগবানের অভিসম্পাৎ তাদের উপর বর্ষিত হবে—তা থেকে কিছুতেই তারা রেহাই পাবেন না। কাজেই পুনর্ব্বার আমি অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে তাঁর সহকর্ম্মীবর্গ এবং এই হাউসের মেম্বরগণকে,—বিশেষ কোরে কোয়ালিশন পার্টির মেম্বরগণকে আমার বিনীত অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি—তারা যেন সমস্ত ব্যাপারটা গভীরভাবে চিন্তা কোরে বাজেট পাশ করেন, এবং সত্য পথে থেকে দেশের প্রকৃত উপকার সাধন করেন। ভগবান আপনাদের আশীর্ব্বাদ করুন। বন্দেমাতরম্।

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have listened to a very interesting speech from the Hon'ble Finance Minister, and I should like to congratulate him for his clear understanding of some of the pressing needs of the province. He has clearly visualized the problems which call for early solution and has suggested that his budget be judged from the point of its success or otherwise in the meeting of the problems. It is not possible in the general budget discussion to go into the details of the particular provisions embodied in the budget, but I should nevertheless like to discuss some of the main principles underlying.

The first comment which suggests to myself is the absence of any clear formulation of policy for the improvement of the economic condition of the masses, though the Hon'ble Finance Minister has himself admitted that this is the most important question of modern Bengal. But, Sir, unfortunately, this is not a poor man's budget.

His approach as expressed in the budget provision is from the point of view of appointment of individual members, of the middle class, but we must to-day realize that the problems of the masses are even more pressing than those of the educated unemployed. It is only in this context that one can understand the Hon'ble Finance Minister's astonishing remarks about retrenchment.

For it may be true that from the point of view of the prospects and standards of the middle class there is not much room for further retrenchment but if we can forget for a moment our middle class affiliations and look at the question from the point of view of the standards and needs of the hungry millions of the province there is no

denying the fact that the present scales of remuneration in Government service are out of all proportion to the economic realities of the province. We have further to remember that other provinces in India have faced this question and there is a general movement for regulating the salaries in conformity with the appalling poverty of the people. If other provinces can do it why not Bengal? (Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Which province has done it?) Madras has done it. (The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: We did it three years before Madras.) (Mr. J. C. GUPTA: No, not the same thing.) We refuse to believe for a moment that this will in any way impair the efficiency, strength or integrity of our public services.

The other side of the picture is the maintenance or creation of a large number of posts without any definite or fruitful work to do.

I would ask what has the Marketing Officer done for the improvement of agriculture and prices in the province. I would ask now, that the Legislature has decided to abandon any large scale revisional settlement, what purpose will the Director of Land Records, the Settlement Officers and a huge establishment serve—cannot the present work be done by the Member, Board of Revenue, working through the Collectors of the districts?

I would ask what purpose do Commissioners of Divisions serve? Is it not true that they are regarded as dignified post offices? Have they not become superfluous but expensive luxury? What is this that we hear again of the creation of the office of an Appointment Adviser. What work will he do? What salary will he carry? What useful purpose can he serve?

Is it not a fact that we have in Bengal a sufficient number of men who have received special training abroad in methods of primary education, co-operation and other similar subjects? Why this fondness for sending particular officers on deputation to England or Denmark when we are told that there is no money for some of the most pressing needs of the province? (Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: There is something rotten in the State of Denmark.) My friend says that there is something rotten in the State of Denmark. Sir, we welcome Government's intention of spending a crore for ameliorative measures, but when we look to the actual distribution of the funds we cannot feel confident in the wisdom of the selection they have made. We are told that there is no money for improvement of primary education and only five lakhs are allotted for the purpose in the budget but we are astonished to find that youth welfare—whatever that might mean—is to get 2½ lakhs. Who is to organize the youth welfare? Who will manage the funds? And what will be the purpose for which the money will be spent? These are questions which must be answered before the Legislature is asked to provide such unusually large sums for unspecified purposes in unknown hands? Again heavy sums are allotted for several institutions

of doubtful value. Have Government any control over their expenditure? Is the Legislature represented on their governing bodies? Not a cowrie appears to have been provided this year for any old scheme Madrasahs which have been imparting very useful education on Islamic civilization and culture. I come to the proposal for a Purdah College. The striking example of want of a clear vision is to be found in the proposal for a Purdah College for girls. What is the meaning of the word "Purdah" here? As has been already said, the word is liable to different interpretations by different persons. We have always demanded a College for Muslim girls alone in which girls will be trained by female professors in the atmosphere of a Muslim Home. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from some Muslim members of the House.) The present proposal is not exactly like that, and this will only reduplicate unnecessarily the conditions existing in other institutions. The fund allotted again is extremely inadequate. We want the scheme to materialize in the course of a year.

With regard to excess of jute duty, I would congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his good luck, but I cannot congratulate him for the use to which he wants to put the money. The opinion of almost all the members of this side of the House is that this should have been spent exclusively for primary education and thus benefit the masses from whom the money is ultimately derived. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Congress and Coalition Benches.) Money has to be found out for free primary education—which cannot wait any longer.

In this connection, I would also ask why should we have two funds for jute restriction propaganda and jute census. Cannot the two works be done together? or I would rather say—can the works be done separately. It is common knowledge that the money for jute restriction propaganda is not well spent and the persons who are entrusted with the work are of a type who have no influence whatever in the countryside. Cannot Government think of utilizing the help and co-operation of local M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. who in all such cases will be glad to offer their services on a voluntary and honorary basis? What is there to prevent the formation of a District Jute Control Board with M.L.As. and M.L.Cs?

There are many other points which deserve attention, such as the Co-operative Movement, the Rural Development and Debt Settlement, the Development of Industries, inadequacy of medical aid, etc. Each of these points would require a thorough and careful analysis. I shall reserve my remarks in connection with the demand for grants.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 6-30 p.m. on Tuesday the 22nd February, 1938, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 22nd February, 1938, at 6-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 191 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Malaria in Nadia, Murshidabad and Jessore.

*44. **Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that large parts of the districts of Nadia, Murshidabad and Jessore have suffered this year from an unusually severe attack of malaria;

(*b*) whether Government have investigated into the causes of the same;

(*c*) if so, what are their findings;

(*d*) is it a fact that one potent cause is the insufficiency of natural flushing through floods during the last rainy season;

(*e*) whether the prolonged suffering was due largely to want of adequate supply of quinine through the local dispensaries; and

(*f*) what steps have Government taken so far and propose to take in the near future to prevent and to control the spread of malaria in the area?

MINISTER in charge of PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Nausher Ali): (*a*) The incidence of malaria has increased in Nadia and Murshidabad.

(*b*) and (*c*) An investigation was made about local recrudescence of malaria at Khosbashpur in Murshidabad in connection with the pistia

removal experimental scheme in that area. The Assistant Malariologist was deputed for necessary investigation and his report is awaited.

(*d*) Insufficiency of natural flushing through floods is one of the main causes of malaria in Bengal.

(*e*) No report of any shortage of supply of quinine was received by Government.

(*f*) The District Board has been asked to submit anti-malaria schemes for examination by the Public Health Department. The grants for free distribution of quinine to assist local authorities has been increased. The problem of combating malaria on comprehensive lines has been engaging the serious attention of Government.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister with reference to answer (*f*),—the last sentence of the answer,—be pleased to state whether any comprehensive scheme for fighting malaria has been prepared?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Not yet.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*e*), whether he is aware that in the district of Murshidabad there were a number of dispensaries that went off the supply of quinine for a very long time during the last malaria season?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I am not aware of that.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the result of the removal of the pistia at Khosbashpur in the district of Murshidabad?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: The answer is there already.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it not a fact that during the last eight years in Murshidabad wherever pistia has been removed malaria has been considerably decreased, and wherever there is pistia, malaria is raging in epidemic form?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I cannot accept that statement as correct, Sir.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to answer (*a*), what makes the Hon'ble Minister think that the incidence of malaria has not increased in Jessore as well?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Nothing makes the Minister think in any particular way, and I have not thought in any particular way so far as this answer is concerned, but I think it is because no report has been received that is why nothing has been stated, my own impression being that there is no room for increase and consequently no report has been submitted.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Communications and Works be pleased to state whether or not during the last malaria season at his place pistia was removed at his instance with the desired result?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. That has nothing to do with this.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Very well, Sir, I put this question whether the Hon'ble Minister in charge is aware that during the last malaria season Maharaja Sris Chandra Nandy, of Kasimbazar, started anti-pistia by a rapid decline of malaria, whereas in the neighbouring places where it was not done, malaria remained as before?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Sir, so far as I am concerned, I cannot give any definite reply without proper notice; but apart from that it is palpable that where there is vegetation growth of this nature which is likely to give shelter and breeding ground for mosquito. Removal of pistia is likely to decrease the incidence of malaria.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government have taken to flush the rivers, which is considered to be one of the reasons for the spread of malaria in the district of Murshidabad?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: That is a matter more or less not for the Health Department, but for the Irrigation Department. Government have been seriously thinking about the entire question—if not for eradicating, at least for reducing, the incidence of malaria, as far as the funds at the disposal of Government would permit.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: May I just ask the Hon'ble Minister how long has this sort of thinking been continuing?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I can at once say that it is such a big problem that one year, or two years or even five years may not be quite sufficient.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Referring to the answer in (*b*), "recrudescence of malaria at Khosbashpur", is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in Gobardanga, a neighbouring village, pistia was not removed, and malaria remained there as before, whereas in the neighbouring village of Khosbashpur only pistia from among the vegitation was removed and this was followed by a decline in malaria.

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I have already stated that removal of pistia may reduce the incidence of malaria, and I have got no information relating to the matter about which the question has been put.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to the answer to Mr. Basu's question that the problem is so vast as to engage the attention of Government for five years, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that it is engaging the attention of the Government since the time Sir Surendra Nath Bannerji was the Minister in charge of this department?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I think, Sir, malaria has been drawing the attention of the Government ever since malaria appeared in this country, but the question is as to how it has got to be tackled and eradicated. So far as I know I cannot say what Government did long long ago, but what I am concerned with is to say that I have taken up the matter seriously since I came into office.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state before this House what are the exact impediments preventing the immediate adoption of a comprehensive scheme to tackle this problem?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: This House, I understand, knows thoroughly well that we have undertaken a survey of malaria, but the survey is not yet complete.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the quinine that is meant for distribution is sometimes sold by the so-called anti-malaria societies?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Well, Sir, since I came into office I have never got any complaint to that effect.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*f*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the nature of the comprehensive scheme and whether that comprehensive enquiry includes the question of irrigation and flushing, as well as the distribution of quinine?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: No comprehensive scheme has yet been drawn up. The whole matter is under consideration and will depend to a very large extent on the results of the survey.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of the answer which the Hon'ble Minister gave at the previous session that anti-pistia work is less costly than quinine, what is the impediment in giving a trial to this experiment which has succeeded so long in Nadia and Murshidabad?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: My information, as far as I remember, on the last occasion (though the connected papers are not before me) was it was not a fact that it had been successful?

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when did Government ask the District Board of Murshidabad to submit the anti-malaria scheme for the district of Murshidabad and whether any reply to that effect was received?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I would ask for notice.

Debt Settlement Boards in Murshidabad.

*45. **Maulvi ABDUL BARI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Debt Settlement Boards have been formed in the district of Murshidabad;

(*b*) if not, what is the reason of the delay;

(*c*) if any Settlement Boards have been formed in the district, what is their number; and

(*d*) are the Government aware that creditors are expediting institution of the cases and execution of decrees before the boards are actually formed?

MINISTER in charge of CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) 70.

(*d*) I have no information.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by subdivisions the number of Debt Settlement Boards in the district of Murshidabad? That is, how many in each subdivision?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I would refer the hon'ble member to the Gazette in which all these Boards have been published.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: With reference to the Gazette itself, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that only 27 Debt Settlement Boards have been established, though the Hon'ble Minister says 70?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I have given the answer that it is 70.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to agree with me that after the publication in June, there has been no further publication regarding Debt Settlement Board in the district of Murshidabad?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I would refer the hon'ble member to the Gazette, dated the 3rd February, in which a further publication of these Boards has been made.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if proposals for the establishment of Debt Settlement Boards in all the Union Boards have been received in the Hon'ble Minister's office?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, I must ask for notice.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long will it take his department to establish Debt Settlement Boards in all the Union Boards in the district of Murshidabad?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: For the information of my hon'ble friend I would only say that it will be done as and when proposals are received from the local officers.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has made any arrangements for the granting of short term credits to agriculturists in the Murshidabad district, where he has established Debt Settlement Boards?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that question does not arise.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as regards the appointment of members to the Debt Settlement Boards, whether it is a fact that the fifth man who is supposed to be an impartial man is generally appointed——

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I submit, Sir, that that is a statement of opinion and not a question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: With reference to question (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have enquired into the allegation made in this question that institution of cases and execution of decrees were being expedited in view of the fact that Debt Settlement Boards were going to be established? Has any enquiry been made?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: On receipt of notice of this question the local officer was asked, and the answer is that Government have no definite information.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any instructions have been issued to the local authorities for forwarding any applications that may be made to them for the formation of Boards?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: No instruction is necessary. As soon as there is a proposal for the formation of a Board it is considered by the local officers, and the proposal is forwarded to Government.

Omission of the northern boundary plot at Dinajpur in the records-of-rights.

***46. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that in the finally published records-of-rights by the Settlement Officer at Dinajpur the northern boundary plot is not shown?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering it desirable to take steps for remedying the defect?

MINISTER in charge of REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) There is no defect to be remedied. The lands of holdings are sufficiently identified by the plot numbers and the map. Entry of the northern boundary in the *khatian* is considered unnecessary.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was not more easy to have an entry made as regards the northern boundary?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the reason for omitting this entry about the northern boundary? Did it entail any cost?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir. It was omitted on grounds of economy.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the northern boundary is shown in the settlement records of other districts?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASSAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir. It is so.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of the answer that an entry of the northern boundary in the *khatian* is not necessary, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he would enquire why northern boundaries were included in the record-of-rights of other districts?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I have already answered that question, Sir.

Payment of settlement cost by instalments on account of partial failure of paddy crops in the Dinajpur district.

***47. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) of the general economic distress that is still prevailing in the district of Dinajpur;

(*ii*) of the fact that there has been a partial failure of the main crop (paddy); and

(ii) that the prices of agricultural produce have considerably fallen down in the district?

(*b*) If so, is he considering the desirability of issuing direction for granting easy instalments covering a fairly long period of time for payment of settlement cost of Dinajpur?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) There has been a poor crop of paddy in certain low-lying lands in Balurghat subdivision, but Government are not aware of any general economic distress or failure of paddy crop in Dinajpur district.

(*b*) Under existing instructions, easy instalments are granted in deserving cases and particular cases of hardship receive special consideration. Government will see that these instructions are carefully observed.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that several hundred tenants applied for easy instalments, but that they were asked to make their payments to the Recovery Officer within 1 or 2 months' time, i.e., when he would remain there?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government have already issued instructions to District Officers to allow easy instalments in those areas and in those cases where there has been a failure of crops or where there is likely to be any hardship.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain what he means by "easy instalments"?

(No reply.)

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that after the last session of the Legislative Assembly confidential circulars were issued by the Collector of Murshidabad asking the small landlords not to file certificate cases in large numbers and that such circulars were not issued to the big landlords?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that question arise?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: This question arises because of the number——

Mr. SPEAKER: Where do you find the number? I am afraid you are mistaken, for the "number" comes in the next question.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I am very sorry, Sir.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: May we know who decides which cases involve hardship?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The Collector, Sir.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Are the Government prepared to issue instructions for payment in easy instalments at least in those four areas where there has been a poor outturn of crops?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government have already issued such instructions.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: What I want to know is whether Government have issued general or particular instructions?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: General instructions have been issued to District Officers to allow easy instalments in those areas where there has been a failure of crop, and also in particular cases where there is likely to be any hardship.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in issuing instructions to the District Officers he has passed any definite orders to the effect that recovery costs should not be realized within the next five years?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The matter has been left to the discretion of the District Officer, but he has been very definitely told that easy instalments should be allowed where it is found to be necessary.

Certificate cases in Murshidabad.

*48. **Maulvi ABDUL BARI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many certificate cases were instituted in the district of Murshidabad in 1936-37 and 1937-38;

(*b*) in how many of these cases moveable properties were attached; and

(*c*) in how many of these cases the certificate officer himself went out to execute the decree?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) 1936-37—6,892 and 1937-38—7,271.

(*b*) The information cannot be obtained without reference to all the disposed of records, involving excessive labour and cost.

(*c*) None.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that after the last session of the Assembly the big zemindars were allowed to file certificate cases in large numbers, whereas the small zemindars were not allowed to do so?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government do not make any such discrimination.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in 1936-37 the Certificate Officer of Lalbagh went to execute a certain decree personally with a gun in hand to village Dhobapara?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I hope that is not correct.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that 1936-37 and 1937-38 were the two famine years for the district of Murshidabad?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: 1936-37 was not a famine year.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Does the Hon'ble Minister remember that I referred to this particular fact of the Certificate Officer going with a gun in hand to Dhobapara in my speech in the last budget session and that the Hon'ble Minister assured me that he would enquire into the matter? Has he made an enquiry?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: So far as I remember an enquiry was made, and the allegation was not substantiated.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the District Magistrate of Murshidabad did not receive any orders from Government to make an enquiry?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: How does the hon'ble member know that Government did not refer the matter to the District Officer?

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Because I had a talk with the District Magistrate only a week ago about this matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what percentage out of these certificate cases related to cases instituted by Government for Government property in the khas mahals, and what percentage of them related to properties of private landlords?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice, Sir.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it not a fact that in Murshidabad district the big landlords were accommodated by permitting them to deposit court-fees after the disposal of cases, whereas this privilege was denied to the small landlords?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No, Sir. During the distress years the privilege was extended to all landlords.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that a particular zemindar—a Raja Bahadur of Murshidabad—wrote to the Commissioner and to the higher authorities and got special privileges which were denied to others?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No, that is not a fact.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that in order to execute a certificate degree, an officer of the certificate department entered into the house of a respectable Muhammadan gentleman in a place under the Fatehpur thana——

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, I should say that it is not my intention to put a stop to the right of individual members to put supplementary questions. But I also think it is only proper for me to suggest whether it would not be more advisable and serve the purpose better if the attention of the Hon'ble Minister is specifically drawn to an incident before a question is put to the Hon'ble Minister in this House, specially when serious allegations are made.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: With due respect I may say that the attention of the Hon'ble Minister was drawn by me at the time of the discussion of the last budget and the Hon'ble Minister assured me that he would enquire into the matter——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is probably not the convenient way of drawing attention of the Hon'ble Minister if a member really wants an effective remedy. So many things are said in this House but a grave and serious matter of allegation may be specifically brought to his notice.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the figures mentioned in his reply represent only the figures of the Sadar subdivision of the Murshidabad district?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The question was with regard to the district of Murshidabad, and the answer is with reference to the question put.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these figures represent only the cases of the Sadar subdivision?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Having regard to the admission of the Hon'ble Minister that 1937-38 was a famine year in the district of Murshidabad, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to suspend the enforcement of the certificate procedure in that district?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: When did I admit that 1937-38 was a famine year?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think both Mr. Gupta and the Hon'ble Minister were under a misapprehension: the answer was given about one year only, and the Hon'ble Minister did not say anything about the other year.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that 1937-38, so far as Murshidabad is concerned, has been a famine year?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PROSAD SINGH ROY: Certainly not; it was a year of bumper crop.

Clerks in the Certificate and Record Room Departments of the Collectorates.

*49. **Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHAWMIK:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the service of clerks in the—

(*i*) Certificate Department,

(*ii*) Landlord Fee Department,

(*iii*) Nazarat Department,

(*iv*) Touzi Department, and

(*v*) Record Room,

is temporary or not in spite of long standing service and necessary qualifications; and

(*b*) whether their claims are considered when the question of recruitment to the permanent staff arises?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) In the Certificate and Record Room Departments of the Collectorates, the ministerial staff is partly temporary and partly permanent; in the Nazarat and Touzi Departments, wholly permanent; and in the Landlord Fee Department, wholly temporary.

(*b*) Claims of really efficient temporary clerks are taken into consideration in filling up permanent vacancies.

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHOWMIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*b*), whether there is any inefficient temporary clerk in the department?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Temporary clerks are appointed and if they ultimately prove to be inefficient they are not reappointed or made permanent.

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHOWMIK: My question was whether there is any inefficient clerk in the department?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: There may be some, but when they are found inefficient their services are dispensed with.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: With reference to question (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if those temporary clerks will be considered inefficient when they pass the ordinary age-limit?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No, not always.

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHOWMIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the test for efficiency or inefficiency?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The usual test.

Appointment of clerical staff in the offices of Magistrate and Collector at Rajshahi.

***50. Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many appointments in the upper and lower grades of the permanent establishment in the offices under the District Magistrate and Collector, Rajshahi (including the subdivisional offices), were made during the last five years from 1933 to 1937;

(*ii*) the number of appointments (upper and lower grades separately) given to the Moslems;

(*iii*) the number of Moslems appointed who are domiciled inhabitants of the district of Rajshahi; and

(*iv*) the number of non-Moslems appointed who are domiciled inhabitants of the district?

(*b*) Is it a fact that several higher grade clerks are serving on repeatedly long extensions?

(*c*) If so, how many of them are Moslems and how many non-Moslems?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 50.

(*i*) Lower Division—18.

Upper division clerks are not recruited direct.

There were 5 promotions from the lower division.

(*ii*) Upper Division—Nil.

Lower Division—8.

(*iii*) 6.

(*iv*) 5.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether extensions are given to clerks repeatedly?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: There were some cases of extension.

Primary Education Committee.

***51. Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate—

(*i*) constitution of the central Primary Education Committee under section 3 of the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930, very shortly; and

(*ii*) issue of necessary notification under section 56 of the Act for making primary education compulsory in the district of Mymensingh before April, 1938?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the probable date of such notification and the steps taken up to date to expedite the publication of such notification?

MINISTER in charge of EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) (*i*) No; as District School Boards have been established in 12 districts only so far.

(*ii*) No. The scheme of free primary education has been inaugurated in the district of Mymensingh only from January, 1938, and the scheme must be allowed to work for some time before it can be reasonably expected that adequate provision of primary education in the district will have been made justifying the enforcement of compulsion.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government propose to introduce free primary education in any other district this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Steps are being taken to form school boards in several districts and the matter is being expedited as much as possible.

Khan Bahadur HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government think it desirable to grant necessary funds from the Provincial Revenues to start requisite number of schools sufficient to give education to all children of school-going age in the district?

Mr. SPEAKER: This question does not arise.

Khan Bahadur HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to (*a*) (*i*) when school boards are going to be established in other districts of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: It is very difficult to say: it all depends on the willingness of the people of the locality to come forward to bear the burden of taxation. Wherever there is a demand, steps are being taken to form school boards.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the district of Pabna is willing to undertake the burden of taxation.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, and a school board has already been established there.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the number of schools before the introduction of free primary education in the district of Mymensingh and what is the number of schools now after its introduction?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not think the hon'ble member can expect me to give this information off-hand from my memory. I want notice.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether if members representing a particular district say that they want the introduction of primary education in that district, he will take it that that district wants it?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government propose to impose education cess in any other district this year?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Yes, as I have already stated, school boards are first formed and then steps are taken to impose cess.

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: No appointment has yet been made. As I have already answered they have been selected for training and will be appointed on the result of the competitive examination.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these posts have gone to Eastern Bengal and how many to Western Bengal?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: From the statement placed on the library table, it appears that eight candidates have been recruited as Special Officers from the Schedule Caste. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state of these 8 candidates why 5 Special Officers have been recruited from the Scheduled Castes of Khulna district alone? Is it because——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The first part is all right.

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: These candidates were interviewed and they were selected after interview. I do not remember what the actual number was but perhaps the largest number came from this particular district.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any qualified candidate was available from other districts?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I must ask for notice. So far as I remember, there were few candidates from other districts.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why not a single Special Officer was recruited from the district of Murshidabad?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I shall refer the hon'ble member to the reply which I have given. This selection was made not on the basis of district consideration but on the consideration of the province as a whole.

Mr. NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: এই সমস্ত Post এ যে training দেওয়া হচ্ছে তার জন্য কি কোন allowance এর ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে?

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the candidates selected for training are getting the same graded scale of pay?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: No; they are getting an allowance during their training period.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount of allowance they are getting at present?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Inspectors are getting at the rate of Rs. 65 a month and the Auditors Rs. 45 per month.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to the answer he gave to my previous question, whether the number of persons selected for training is just equal to the number of vacancies for these posts?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: No The number selected is greater than the number of vacancies.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of vacancies that have to be filled up? We find 137 candidates have been chosen.

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: All these three classes do not go together. The Special Officers form a class by themselves. With regard to the Auditors and Inspectors, the number that will be finally appointed will be 27 Inspectors and 40 Auditors.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Scheduled Caste people of some districts are less educated than the Scheduled Caste people of Khulna?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion. If you persist in putting such supplementary questions which you are not entitled to do, I will not allow you to put any more supplementary questions.

Mr. RADHANATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state to which caste of Scheduled Caste candidates who have been selected from Khulna belong?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Government do not make any distinction between caste and caste.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the necessity of recruiting new men when there are lots of registered accountants and auditors?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the competitive examination referred to in his answer will be held under the auspices of the Public Service Commission or it will be a departmental examination?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: It will be held by the officers at the training camp under whom they are placed.

Dr. H. C. MUKHERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there are Indian Christians among other minority communities mentioned in his statement laid on the library table?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: The hon'ble member will be good enough to remember that I told him yesterday that one Indian Christian was selected for training as Inspector, another as Auditor and two were taken as Special Officers

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why these appointments have not been made on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission and why even the examination is not being conducted under the auspices of the Public Service Commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Because the rules do not say so.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the period of training the selected candidate will have to undergo to enable him to sit at the competitive examination?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: So far as I remember, it will be a period of about 7 months.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Allowances and study stipends to medical officers on leave abroad.

19. Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether there is a statutory

rule of Government to the effect that when a medical officer is on leave abroad on an average pay or even half of the average pay, the allowance that he draws when he is abroad is a minimum of £25 per month?

(*b*) Is it a fact that over and above this amount he gets a study allowance of 12*s*. a day?

(*c*) Is it a fact that on previous occasions the principle of awarding this leave was always based on seniority and special training and not on any other basis?

(*d*) Is it a fact that three junior officers and with no special training have been granted leave outside India with allowances and study stipends in preference to some senior officers who applied for study leave and were refused?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: No.

Strength of Mussalmans in the cadre of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons.

20. **Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government and Public Health Department be pleased to state whether there is any percentage fixed for the appointment of Mussalmans to the Government post of Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the strength of Mussalmans in the cadre of Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons in relation to the total strength of both the Medical Services?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: (*a*) Yes.

	Assistant Surgeons.	Sub-Assistant Surgeons.
(*b*) Total number of officers on the roll. (permanent and temporary) ..	165	275
Number of Muhammadan officers (permanent and temporary) ..	32	35

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: With regard to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what percentage has been fixed for the appointment of Muslims to the post of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: 33⅓ per cent.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether that percentage has been reached or whether that has been strictly followed?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: So far as the Assistant Surgeons are concerned the percentage has been complied with. But so far as the Sub-Assistant Surgeons are concerned, there is a deficit which will be made up this year.

Muslim graveyard in Bogra.

21. Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that a considerable section of the Muslim tenants of the Khanjanpur Khasmahal Estate, in the district of Bogra, are feeling aggrieved at the settlement, by the Khasmahal Officer, of a Muslim graveyard which has been ploughed and turned into an agricultural field;

(*ii*) that this act has wounded the religious feelings of the Muslim tenants of that locality; and

(*iii*) if so, what step does he propose to take in the matter?

(*b*) If the answer to question (*a*) is in the negative, is he considering the desirability of instituting an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) A plot of fallow land which seems to have been used as a pasture land was recently settled. It subsequently transpired that the bodies of some Muslims had been buried in that land.

(*ii*) This is likely.

(*iii*) The settlement has already been cancelled by the Collector.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was this order of cancellation passed?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: In the absence of the Hon'ble Minister in charge I ask for notice.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the land is recognised now as the Muslim graveyard?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: The settlement has been cancelled. I do not know how it is used now.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who this Khas Mahal Officer is?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of taking this particular officer to task who ploughed and turned that graveyard into agricultural land?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a request for action.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Khas Mahal Officer is a Hindu or a Muhammadan?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any protest was made at the time of the settlement of this land?

(No reply.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Apparently not.

Al-Haj Maulana Dr. SANAULLAH: May I rise on a point of information? My point is this: Whether statements that are laid on the library table would be included in the proceedings of this House. During the last session also I drew your kind attention to this matter. If in answers to questions statements are laid on the library table members are deprived of their special privilege of putting supplementary questions. We are only allowed to put in 12 questions in a session and unless we get the facility of putting supplementary questions and having ready references handy by us, then, I am afraid, this method would not be fair to us.

Mr. SPEAKER: I might explain the present practice. If a statement is short, it is usually published in the proceedings, but if it is a long one—some times books are also laid on the table—then you cannot expect that to be published. So the matter stands there. But if my particular attention is drawn to any statement which requires publication, I will certainly take it up and take action. If any member wants to get any such statement printed, I hope he will please refer the matter to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar:

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, before speeches begin on the budget discussion to-day, may I ask for an information, in which all the members are interested, whether in view of the coming "black-out" to-morrow at 7 p.m. this House will be adjourned at 7 p.m. or will it remain closed during the period of the "black-out" only? May I know what is the intention?

Mr. SPEAKER: I find that the "black-out" is a problem for us also! I propose to adjourn the House for half an hour at 6-45 p.m. to-morrow and sit again at about 7-15 or 7-20 p.m.

Budget discussion.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Sir, in my view the budget of the Government of Bengal for this year can be favourably compared with the budget of Russia presented by the Finance Minister of that country before the October revolution, 1917. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Before the October Revolution.) Sir, the tenants of Bengal wanted bread and although stones were not thrown before them, they were given crumbs and even for that the Finance Minister asks us to love him, to adore him. In his own language he says "if we fritter away our energies in profitless and unnecessarily carping criticism of the existing order of things, then it in no way ensures progress", or, in other words, he says that whatever he has done for us we must be thankful to him.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: You have not understood it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He has not your intelligence: please teach him.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Yes, I will.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Sir, the Finance Minister says he will teach me, so I request him to open a school outside this House, so that I can get myself admitted there. He has described the condition of the country, though I think only by way of a pious platitude. He says "the overcrowding of professions and the prolonged privations of the vast masses engaged in agriculture and industry are a formidable threat to the very existence of ordered society. Along with this has to be considered the acute unemployment among the intelligentsia. The less our graduates are able to find a natural expression in their chosen professions the more will their energies concentrate on the realisation of political aims which promise by way of radical changes to assure them of a right to live and work. We have to bear in mind

the utter despair of thousands and thousands of parents to save and slave a life-time to give their children an education, only to see them unemployed in the end, very often broken in body and in spirit; the impotent wrath and slow demoralisation of promising young men and women loaded with degrees and certificates, to whom society denies the opportunity to put to any use their gifts and their knowledge. This we must always remember and endeavour to give a shape to things to come that will feed our hungry masses and ensure the welfare of all."

In spite of all these conditions, this Government has collected a revenue of Rs. 13 crores and 13 lakhs. If we look to the items of expenditure, we will see that this expenditure is not justified, and it is not for the good of the country. I shall not travel over the whole field. I shall only take up four departments of Government to show that I am justified in my criticism of this Government's budget. I shall deal Government policy only with regard to excise, education agriculture and industry. About this excise policy of Government, I submit that it is in no way commendable to the country. During the last budget session when my friend Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy moved a cut motion to introduce prohibition in this country, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister made a statement on behalf of Government, and I beg your permission to read it out here.

The Prime Minister said "I am convinced by the speeches that have been delivered in this House that opinion is practically unanimous that there should be total prohibition in this province. I am prepared on my part on my responsibility to declare that prohibition would be our ultimate goal and I am prepared also to announce that I shall follow the example of the Chief Minister of Madras and try to experiment in one or two areas with total prohibition." Now, Sir, what is the result we find here? The Finance Minister tells us that from the Excise Department he has got an increased revenue of 17 lakhs of rupees.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Not during the budget year, but during the current year.

Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: I may tell the House that instead of enforcing prohibition Government has issued orders last October reducing the price of country liquor to 4½ annas. This has increased consumption. Whether Government admit it or not, the fact is there and I am convinced that the reduction in the price of liquors has made more people drink wine than before. As regards the present Ministry, it has been given out that it is predominantly a Moslem Ministry or at least it wants to preserve Moslem interest. Now and then it has been given out that Moslem interests and Moslem claims will be protected. My friend Maulvi Abdul Bari has been making out claims for Moslems. May I not ask that prohibition is a demand of Moslems?

It is a demand of the Congress and also of some other sections of the House——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Moslems do not need prohibition.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: I have seen even Mr. Suhrawardy, the Commerce Minister, explaining at Gaibandha like a Grand Mufti the tenets of Islam, but in practice I see that the Government is following an excise policy which is consistently and totally prejudical to the interest of the country and especially of the Moslem community. Now, Sir, what they are actually following is a policy which is quite contrary to what they orally profess, and when we examine the budget estimate we find that it goes against the tenets of Islam and other religions.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Are you a champion of Islam?

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: My friend may be. But it is a fact that religion is sublime to the masses but it is useful to the politicians. Now, it is said that Noakhali has been chosen to experiment prohibition. I submit, Noakhali is a place where Moslem population predominates and it is a place of the maulanas. The Hindu community there is also so very advanced that prohibition is not practically necessary in that district. If that district is selected, I think, it would practically be an eye-wash. (Interruptions from several members.)

Now, I take up the question of education. The primary duties of the Government are three in number. The first thing they have to do is to give freedom of religion to the people. The next thing they have to do is to give them security of their life and property, and the third important thing that the Government have to do is to give the people three R's education, viz., reading, writing and arithmetic without taxation. If you tax people for their religion, it will be *Jijiya*, if you impose a special tax for the police, it is called a punitive tax, if you tax the people for primary education, it can be called, for want of a better name, an immoral taxation (hear, hear). For primary education Government have allotted only Rs. 5 lakhs, but that is also not in the interest of education alone but as a reward to some of the districts where the people have been taxed for this purpose. The Finance Minister expressly states that for this laudable work, viz., imposition of a tax, he gives regard amounting to Rs. 5 lakhs to the districts concerned——

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: You have not understood why Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided, which I will explain later.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: I may not understand it, but the question is whether primary education should be introduced in this province without taxation. The rural Primary Education Act was passed in 1930 with the object of putting it into operation within 10 years. The criminal negligence of the previous Government practically took away the essence of the Act and at this late stage, in 1938, the present Government are trying to impose a taxation which will frustrate the object of the Act, because the tax may not be collected and for that reason introduction of primary education also will be delayed. So far as my report goes, there is an export tax on tea, from which a very big amount is collected by Government. That amount is not taken into the general fund of the Government, it is distributed in the interest of the tea planters. Now the jute tax is also an export duty and jute is a commodity which is produced entirely by the agriculturists. We expected that Government would allot the jute export duty for the introduction and development of free and compulsory primary education, because Government could be carried on without that amount for a considerable period of time. The Finance Minister has said that the financial position has since improved. If that is so, that amount can be set apart for the introduction and development of free primary education for the sons of the poor tenants of Bengal. Instead of doing that Government have allotted only Rs. 5 lakhs extra for budget year for primary education in 10 districts only, and at this rate of progress I think it will not be possible to introduce free and compulsory primary education in all the districts of Bengal during the life-time of the present Ministry.

As regards agriculture, I submit that Government have neglected this important subject altogether. There is room enough for the improvement of agriculture, especially of jute. Government appointed a Jute Committee in 1932. The Committee finished their labour in 1933. In the Minority Report of that Committee to which the Hon'ble the Finance Minister was a party, a case was made out for comprehensive legislation about jute including restriction of jute cultivation, controlling of markets and fixation of prices——

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech.)

Government have really shelved that report. As there is no time, I give only the substance of the findings of that Committee.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was occupied by Mr. Deputy Speaker.)

In the statistics given by the Committee we find that the market prices of jute and the Calcutta prices vary largely, and therefore, there is strong case for fixing the prices of jute. But instead of doing that Government have adopted a course which has practically proved

to be a failure. They are trying to have voluntary restriction of jute which for a long period of time has produced no effective result.

As regards industries, Government have failed to take into account the demand of the country. The Finance Minister says the days of individual enterprise has gone and he has put the claim of society before individuals. If this fact is true people might have expected something like an economic planning of the country. There is room enough for development of industry. At least a crore of rupees might have been set apart for the development of industry. The Finance Minister and the Ministry might have started at least one cloth mill in every division to do away with unemployment question. At the same time they might have improved the industry of the country. The Finance Minister says he will make propaganda for using Swadeshi. But I submit if you do not make arrangements for your Swadeshi goods, your propaganda will be rather against the interests of the country.

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard with interest the criticism hurled upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister in the course of the general discussion of the Budget. But in none, I find any practical suggestion for making a better Bengal which is now governed under the new Government of India Act with its defects and shortcomings, with the full knowledge of which we have agreed to work the Constitution. Some even went so far as to abolish the post of Commissioners which they know they cannot, and the Bengal Government has no power to do it. Assam tried it but failed. I would therefore make some practical suggestions for ameliorating the condition of our people in general and Krishak Proja in particular. But before doing that, Sir, I would heartily congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for presenting another surplus Budget which leaves a closing balance of about one crore seventy-five lakhs after providing an increased grant of about one crore and twenty-three thousand in the various Departments, more than half of which has been allotted to the nation-building departments. I also thank him from the very core of my heart for providing funds for the construction of a sluice gate in my district, which had been hanging since 1921. I only hope when the District Board will come forward for a loan to pay the peoples' share of the contribution—the District Board's share of 1/3 will be paid from their own fund—Government will readily grant this amount as a loan to the District Board to meet this contingency.

From a cursory view of the Budget it makes one to believe that this is a deficit Budget—the closing balance being less than the opening balance by about fifteen lakhs eighty-six thousand. But on close scrutiny it is evident that it is really a tactical move on the part of

the Finance Minister lest we press him for more funds for the nation-building departments. His figures on the revenue side are too optimistic. Those under the heads Customs, Taxes on Income, Land Revenue and Provincial Excise, are, I would say, much less than what it should have been. Last year, although I was not given an opportunity to have my say on the general discussion of the Budget, I was fortunate enough to discuss in private these figures with the Hon'ble Finance Minister and I find that my anticipation for increased income under these heads have come out to be true, and I see no reason why it should not be so, during the coming year.

Tax on jute does not depend upon the market value of the commodity, but on the quantity exported and as such figures on the revenue account shown under this head, I would say, have not been up to the mark. The same holds good on the other heads mentioned above.

From my Budget speech under the head "Excise" at the last Budget Session, it will show that I am not a believer in prohibition by any man-made law or procedure. If you want to make the country dry, and if you are in earnest, you must try heart and soul for the spread of Islam throughout the country. Propaganda for creating public opinion in favour of prohibition may do some good, but it will not have a lasting effect. Any other action including closing down of a few shops in certain areas will only encourage smuggling with the consequent increase in expenditure under this head. If you are not for spreading Islam then the best policy should be to increase the license-fee and duty and closing down those shops which do not produce certain fixed minimum revenue.

We expected to see the introduction of free and compulsory primary education at least in those districts where District School Boards have been established from the beginning of this calendar year and money provided for this purpose; but in this our hopes have been frustrated. Though I believe that free and compulsory primary education cannot be introduced under the existing constitution of "charged" and "voted" elements, without further taxation, still I would say that direct taxation as enunciated in the Act is bound to be very unpopular. The landlords would not resent much for paying their share of the tax, but what they object to most, owing to their past and present experience of road and public works cess, is the payment of the tenants' share of the tax by themselves, for the non-payment of which, their property and not that of the tenants, are liable to be put to auction. We have seen that many estates and permanent tenures have been sold owing to the non-payment of road and public works cess due to the inability of the tenants to pay their dues to the landlords and many estates and tenures attached under section 99 of the Cess Act which has harshly affected the tenants.

In some districts, specially in the districts of Pabna, Nadia and Khulna and probably Bogra, Road and Public Works Cess increased by about cent. per cent. as a result of the last revaluation, and if there be a revaluation now, under the present Act, it is bound to be reduced by at least 35 per cent. if not more. Any additional tax in these districts will be like that of a straw on a loaded camel's back, and the result will be disastrous. I would therefore suggest that revaluation of cess in these districts be taken up all at once, and the landlords' share of the tax—by landlords also I mean the permanent tenure-holders—be levied as soon as the revaluation is completed. I had a talk with Mr. Sachse in this connection, and he told me that it would not take more than ten months to complete revaluation proceedings in one district under the present Act.

As to the tenants' share of the tax, I suggest the following alternative proposals:—

(*a*) (*i*) To levy a terminal tax on jute carried from the mufassil at half or quarter of the present customs duties. This will give at least 3 crores or 1½ crores according as the tax is levied at half or one quarter of the present customs rate.

(*ii*) To levy a terminal tax of 4 annas a maund on fish carried by rail, steamer or aeroplane only. I cannot give the exact figure what it will amount to, but this much I can say, that it will not affect the consumers in the least. It might affect the middlemen to some extent, but the profit they earn is too much to grudge this small tax.

(*b*) The alternative proposal is by increasing the union rate by 50 per cent. upon those who live in villages, but do not pay the Education Cess. This tax has not only been successful in the Serajgunj subdivision of the Pabna district, but has also become popular. But to make it popular throughout the Province we require a giant like Mr. Ishaque at the helm of affairs in each subdivision, but such a loving soul whose heart is always with the people and for the people, is rare in the service, he belongs to. I would therefore prefer the first two to this alternative proposal to be adopted. It is not yet known if this extra taxation in the Serajgunj subdivision will continue to be popular when the sum thus realized will be credited to the District School Board without which free and compulsory primary education cannot be a success. Besides there may be difficulty in the District School Board getting the amount in proper time if realized in this way.

By the passing of the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Bill in the form in which it has been passed and specially the repealing of section 26E of the Act I am of considered opinion that the lands of *bona fide* cultivating raiyats and under-raiyats who are over head and ears in

debt, will pass to the village mahajans and non-cultivating comparatively rich jotedars, in no time, and unless a Land Alienation Act is passed in the form I am going to introduce in this House in this Session or on the lines of the Punjab Land Alienation Act, the fate of the Krishak Proja will be sealed for ever.

Debt Settlement Boards have been and are being established throughout the Province, but unless instructions are issued that the awards of these Boards should be such as to be readily acceptable even without question by the authorities of the Land Mortgage Banks as true and correct state of affairs of the debtors' assets and capacity to pay, it will do no real good to the debtors. But if the awards be on the lines of the scrutiny as taken recourse to, by the authorities of the Land Mortgage Banks in granting a loan, it will have no hesitation in coming to the rescue of these poor debtors and help them in clearing off their debts by easy instalments within a few years. If this proposal is accepted, there cannot be any reasonable objection to our giving such power to the Government for prompt realisation of the dues from the defaulters as will be considered necessary under the circumstances.

A Money-lenders Bill on the line of the Punjab Money-lenders Act fixing the maximum interest at the rate of 6¼ per cent. per annum and introducing license system and compulsory registration of village mahajans and auditing their accounts by Government auditors are also some of the pressing needs of the time and should be taken up without the least delay.

Jute weaving and spinning should be made a compulsory subject in all adult primary schools and also in the two top classes of other primary schools. This will be a step in the right direction in transferring the control of the price of jute to the producers of jute from millers, balers and shippers, as at present. Fixing of a minimum price of jute may be a good political move to overthrow a ministry in a country of illiteracy, but can never be an economically sound proposition. It may even wipe out the jute trade from the world market as has been the case with indigo. In these days of scientific researches, it will not be difficult to find good substitutes for jute. Abnormal price of jute for a period of time in 1926 has already reduced the world's demand for jute by at least 25 per cent. by the introduction of bulk shipment and this way of uneconomically handling jute price will give an incentive to the Russian growers of hemp—not to speak of other substitutes—to compete favourably with jute and drive it out altogether from the world's market.

As to the so-called Purdah College, enough has been said by Mr. Abdul Bari and Mrs. Hasina Murshed. All I would like to say in this connection is that there should be no hide and seek policy with regard to it, but to openly declare and christen it as a College for Moslem girls as in the case of the Islamia College.

Before I conclude, Sir, I must thank you for allowing me to take part in the General Discussion of the Budget this Session and request the Hon'ble Ministers for Education and Local Self-Government through you, Sir, for introducing their respective Bills for Secondary Education and Amendment of the Calcutta Corporation Act without the least possible delay.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if one reads carefully through the Budget he will be impressed with the fact that opportunity has been found out in the Budget for distribution of patronage to the dependants of the persons in authority. It is a Budget which will benefit a few fortunate but it will not benefit the public at large. It will not benefit any community, not to speak of the public at large.

With regard to the Receipts side, I shall refer to one receipt under "Salt". Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is well known that in 1931, the Government of India, with a view to protecting certain inland salt industries, imposed an additional import duty on foreign salt with the idea that the net proceeds of it would be distributed to the provinces dependent on foreign as opposed to indigenous salts for consumption. Under this head since the year 1932 up to the year 1938, it has been shown that the Government of Bengal has got 12 lakhs of rupees but only for this year a magnificent sum of Rs. 2,000 has been paid to the Chittagong Trade Union Limited to start experiment on the manufacture of salt on a commercial scale in Cox's Bazar, but up till this time no further amount has been spent with a view to introduce salt manufacture in our province. This, to say the least, is criminal. Then a large amount has been spent, as you know, under "General Administration".

On the side of the expenditure, the main points to be noticed in the budget is the increased expenditure of one crore of rupees shown in Appendix II of the Budget speech of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Finance. On an analysis what do we find? On the expenditure side under head "Police" the estimated expenditure is 2,25,55,000. In the previous year, the expenditure was Rs. 2,24,48,000, that means an increase of one lakh. And Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will be astonished to see that as a matter of fact the increase of one lakh is mainly due to the increased provisions for Secret Services. A sum of Rs. 35,000 has been budgeted for the increased provisions for the Secret Service. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has not thought it necessary to explain it. What is the necessity for an increased provision for Secret Services.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: That is the Finance Minister's duty no doubt.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Very well. Coming to the General Administration, we find that the expenditure under this head is on the increase. In the year 1934-35 the expenditure was Rs. 1,21,47,000. In the year 1935-36, the expenditure has gone up to Rs. 1,29,21,000 and in the year 1936-37 it has again gone up to Rs. 1,37,97,000. And in this year including the administrative cost for the Debt Conciliation, the expenditure has gone up to Rs. 1,75,98,000, i.e., the increase is about 50 lakhs but as the cruel irony of fate is that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister thinks that there is no room for retrenchment. It has been expressed clearly in his Budget speech that retrenchment is not possible without affecting the efficiency. Last year on a cut motion on "the Administration of Justice" we suggested retrenchment was possible, and the Hon'ble Minister promised an enquiry into the matter to find out ways and means for retrenchment, but the enquiry has been shelved. May I suggest, and I suggest in all humility, that as a matter of fact retrenchment is possible. It has been said this year that provision has been made for appointment by recruitment of a large number of Bengal Civil Service and Bengal Junior Civil Service officers at the cost of one lakh of rupees. May I suggest that the Bengal Civil Service and the Bengal Junior Civil Service may be amalgamated with the pay of the Sub-Deputy Magistrates and pay of the Munsifs and the pay of the Sub-Judges can be easily retrenched without affecting the efficiency. As a matter of fact with respect to our department—with respect to the Council expenditure was 1,51,000 rupees in the year 1936-37 but in this year the expenditure is Rs. 13,32,000. We are fully aware of the fact that the number of members of the legislative bodies (Council and Assembly) has increased; we are fully aware of the fact that the allowances and the pay of the members have thereby increased but the expenditure under the head should not go from Rs. 1,51,000 to Rs. 13,32,000. Is there no room for retrenchment? As a matter of fact, does the Hon'ble Finance Minister think that this expenditure also cannot be reduced without affecting the efficiency of members of the Assembly?

Then we think that the Divisional Commissioners should go, but they cannot be dispensed with inasmuch as their salaries are charged. It is regrettable that we have got to provide for a sum of Rs. 1,12,000 for the reorganization of the establishment of Commissioners' offices and District Magistrates' offices. The same thing can be said with regard to Administration of Justice. The expenditure under this head is Rs. 1,02,78,000.

Now when we turn to the nation-building departments, what do we find? Let us, first of all, take Agriculture which is the occupation of 85 per cent. of the people of this province. We have got an expenditure of Rs. 16,27,000 under this head. If we exclude Rs. 1,57,000 which is the expenditure on the Botanical Gardens and

other gardens, we find that the net expenditure provided for in the budget for Agriculture proper is Rs. 14,70,000. In a province where there are about one lakh of villages and where about five crores of people live on agriculture, the sum of Rs. 14,70,000 is totally inadequate. It is really an irony of fate that only 60 permanent demonstrators have been provided for propaganda work in villages which number one lakh. The pay of these demonstrators is Rs. 25—50 per mensem These demonstrators are not allowed any travelling allowance, and their sphere of work being confined they cannot go beyond a radius of five miles from their headquarters stations. This is the position, Sir, so far as Agriculture is concerned.

Then it has been said that there is a proposal to establish Union Board Farms, and for these Union Boards Farms a sum of Rs. 16,000 has been provided for. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that there are 6,000 union boards in the province of Bengal, and, therefore, on an average each union board will get less than Rs. 3. It has been said, Sir, that there is increased provision of Rs. 4,68,000 under the head Agriculture, but when we refer to the budget, we find that that increased provision is mainly due to certain schemes, *e.g.*, there is a scheme for jute census for which a lump provision of one lakh has been made. Then there is also a scheme for jute restriction propaganda for which Rs. 50,000 has been provided. We have got sufficient experience of jute restriction propaganda, and let us wait to see what scheme for jute census means. I am quite sure that this scheme for jute restriction propaganda will afford another opportunity to Government of distributing official patronage.

Let me now turn to "Primary Education". It has been said that Rs. 28,98,000 has been provided in this budget as against Rs. 24,11,000 in the previous year, and credit has been taken for an increased provision of about five lakhs under this head. Sir, you will please remember that this is a province which contains five crores of illiterate people, *i.e.*, 93 per cent. of the total population of the province. We know that free primary education shall be introduced in certain districts only and that in those districts the education will be free without being compulsory. I can speak from my experience of my own district of Tippera. Free primary education is going to be introduced there, and I can well envisage that the effect of this will be that the number of schools will be considerably decreased. In one thana the schools which at present number 227, will be reduced to 92. This will be the result if free primary education is introduced without compulsion—and with payment of tax.

Now, Sir, I will turn to "Irrigation". Here also I shall refer to my own district of Tippera. Devastating floods occur annually due to breaches in the embankments of the Gumti river. We have been crying for over a century for measures being adopted to prevent these floods, but this is not to be. We have suggested that escapes be

provided above the town of Comilla in order that these floods could be avoided, but no attention has been paid to our suggestions. We have been crying for centuries over this matter, but instead of any relief being given in that direction we are now confronted with a proposal to construct a Legislative Council Building at a total cost of Rs. 15,60,000. A Palace it must be, though the people have been crying for food—both physical and mental food.

Now, Sir, coming to the "Purdah College", I do not wish to say much, for which Rs. 5,00,000 has been provided. Of course, there is a controversy whether a Purdah College is at all necessary in the year 1938. We are not living in the mediæval age. I do not want to quarrel with my friends on the other side, but may I not suggest that a Purdah College, if it is necessary at all, can be established at a lesser cost. If you can save one lakh from this amount, you can sink 500 tube-wells in 500 villages in this province. If you can make a saving of Rs. 1,000, you can sink ten tube-wells in 10 villages in the rural areas. So much with regard to the Purdah College.

Before I turn to the head "Miscellaneous", I would refer to "Industry". With regard to Industry, it has been said that Rs. 16,000 has been provided for undertaking an enquiry into the possibilities of generating and supplying electrical power on an extensive scale and distributing the same at a moderate charge throughout the countryside. But the recent conduct of this Government in refusing sanction to the proposal of the Calcutta Corporation to take over the duty of supplying electricity within the municipal limits of Calcutta is ample proof that the interests of the people at large are subordinated to those of foreign exploiters of this country. So, it is useless to speak of generating electrical power on an extensive scale and distributing the same at a moderate cost throughout the countryside.

Now, turning to "Miscellaneous", I shall refer to one fact, viz., that provision has been made in the budget for Rs. 3,00,000 for detenus and Regulation III prisoners. Public opinion has always demanded that these detenus and Regulation III prisoners—I do not speak of the convicts—ought to have been released long ago, and thus the country could have been saved this considerable expenditure of Rs. 3,00,000 under that head. Then there is provision for Rs. 1,93,000 for a special commission of enquiry. I am quite sure that this special commission of enquiry will produce a horse's egg; it will produce nothing, and this Rs. 1,93,000 could have been saved if this commission were not appointed.

There is, Sir, one other thing to which I shall refer and which will clearly show criminal negligence on the part of this Government. Looking into the subventions from the Central Road Fund, we find an opening balance of Rs. 27,70,000 in the budget of 1938-39 which represents the unspent balance of the allocation already made. In our

district, Sir, the Daudkandi Road, though undertaken years ago, has not yet been finished. And that provision was made in the last year's budget for Rs. 1,50,000, out of which Rs. 59,000 has already been spent. That applies to all the roads that have been undertaken and on account of that, further money from the Central Fund could not be had. This, I should think, is reprehensible. Now, Sir, another Waterways Board is going to be established at a cost of Rs. 2,50,000. It is a fresh opportunity for distributing patronage to a few fresh fortunate people—I do not know who they will be but no doubt they must be a few fortunate people.

Before I sit down, I should like to speak a few words with regard to Debt Conciliation Boards. The provision for an extra expenditure of 24 lakhs has been made on debt conciliation. But I must say that the scheme of the establishment of Debt Conciliation Boards has been a failure. There are complaints about the Debt Conciliation Boards and that they have not been invested with sufficient power, and so far as my district is concerned, as the provisions of the Debt Conciliation Board do not apply to the scheduled banks, the two banks in my district, namely, the Comilla Banking Corporation and the Comilla Union Bank, the debtors of those two banks are not getting relief. Immediate relief should be given to the debtors of the scheduled banks which would in other words be giving relief to the poor agricultural debtors who take loans from these banks on easy instalments. Before I sit down, I must congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for omitting "Bande-Mataram" at the end of his speech unlike last year, as he is adept in resorting to doctrines fashioned to the varying hours.

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Sir, I have heard and read with interest the able speech delivered by the Hon'ble Finance Minister and I congratulate him for his masterly speech.

Sir, with a budget providing for a crore of rupees for new schemes, I find that the Hon'ble Finance Minister is anxious to resurrect the average man who, according to him, is the cultivator and for that purpose, Sir, several, schemes have been drawn up for which an expenditure of about a crore of rupees will be incurred and policy laid down for "the relief of rural indebtedness, the spread of primary education and the stimulation of prices of agricultural commodities through improved methods of production and better marketing facilities"—to quote the words of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. I am very glad to find that the Cabinet is anxious to give effect to all these schemes for ameliorating the condition of the poor cultivator. But I am sorry I cannot see eye to eye with the Cabinet in respect of the methods they mean to employ for ameliorating the condition of the cultivator.

To root out rural indebtedness, Debt Conciliation Boards have been established. I do not dispute that these Boards are working well. They are working well, but there is one difficulty in its working.

Debts are being settled by giving long instalments, but ways and means should be found out to enable the cultivator to pay his instalments. For this purpose, the Hon'ble Finance Minister should see that Credit Societies are organised. As a staunch co-operator and as an Honorary Secretary and Deputy Chairman of the Rangpur Co-operative Bank for about 8 years, and Director of the Provincial Co-operative Bank for a term, I can only say—I am glad that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Co-operative Societies is here—that the working of the Co-operative Societies is far from satisfactory. I do not blame any particular officer or set of officers, I blame the system—it will not and cannot give any relief to the cultivator. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Societies is trying to introduce a Bill for the amendment of the Co-operative Societies Act, and I do hope that if the Act is amended, some relief could be given to the poor cultivators in due course.

To relieve the agriculturist from his debt, you have established Debt Settlement Boards, but the next question is where he is to find money to pay off his debts. I propose, Sir, that instead of reorganising the Co-operative Department by employing more officers and by sending out officers to Denmark and other places, it would be better if agricultural banks are established in every union which will provide facilities for the cultivator to borrow money at a very low rate of interest and by easy instalments of payment. Only two and a half lakhs have been provided for the reorganisation of the Co-operative Department. Most of this money will perhaps be spent on the appointment of new officers and although it may help to solve to some extent the unemployment problem, it will, I am sure, never bring any relief to the cultivator.

I am surprised to find that officers are being sent to Denmark and other countries—it will be nothing but a pleasure trip. Of late, several officers have been deputed to the Punjab to learn co-operative organisation work there but some of these officers, to my utter surprise, are not in the Co-operative Department. I may mention in this connection the name of Mr. Sukumar Chatterjee present Inspector-General of Registration. Although he got his training in co-operation in the Punjab, he has been rather driven off from the Co-operative Department and is now working under the Government in a different Department. If training received abroad and in provinces outside Bengal is not utilised for the purpose for which it is meant, what is the necessity of spending money for sending out men for training. I strongly protest against sending out officers for training in Denmark and other countries. If I may be permitted to say so, Denmark is pre-eminently an industrial country.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: That information is not correct.

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: I am grateful to the Hon'ble Minister for correcting me.

Anyhow, if loans are granted to the cultivators at low rate of interest and on easy instalments, that will simplify the matter to a great extent and serve the purpose better than by sending out men for training. Employing men in the Co-operative Department will not benefit the agriculturists in the least. I suggest that every union should have a bank which will lend money to the cultivators at a low rate of interest.

Again, when arrangements are made to liquidate the present debt of the cultivator, the next point should be how to improve his income. Sir, you will be surprised to hear that about 50 per cent. of the income of the poor cultivator is taken away by Bihar cattle dealers. Of late many boycott movements have been started and with very good results too. I wonder why no boycott movement has yet been started against the draining of cultivators' money into the pockets of the Bihar cattle dealers.

I suggest, Sir, that Government should make necessary arrangement for breeding country cattle. I understand that Behar cattle cannot live here owing to the climatic condition of Bengal and that is why a large number of them die every year. So, there should be proper arrangement for breeding country cattle. In every union arrangement should be made for breeding of cattle at Government expense.

Coming to the Agriculture Department, I find that Rs. 14 lakhs and odd has been budgeted for and most of this money will be spent for the establishment of dairies or cattle farms here and there. About Government dairy, the less said the better. We had a cattle farm at Rangpur, but fortunately for the district, that farm is no longer there. These dairy farms and cattle farms if they do any good to anybody, they do good to the employees of the farms. They do not do any good to the cultivators. As a matter of fact, provision of more money for more dairy farms and cattle farms would not improve the lot of the average men. As the Hon'ble Finance Minister proposes if he is earnest in doing any good to the agriculturists, better breeding arrangements must be made in every union to improve the quality of country cattle and thus raise the average income of the cultivator. I am sorry that no arrangement has been made for the rearing up and breeding of country cattle. This ought to be done.

In this connection I would suggest that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture (unfortunately he is not here to-day and I am crying in the wilderness) do appoint an Informal Committee of some members of this House consult them and draw up a scheme to stop the wastage of cultivator's money by making necessary arrangement for cattle breeding.

The next point to improve the lot of the cultivator is to give him education. I am very glad to find that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has taken up the question of instruction of free primary education in earnest and is putting it into action. In certain districts several school boards have been formed and he is very anxious to establish more school boards and to impose education cess for the purpose of primary education. The question is whether primary education can be given without taxation. Of course, as far as I know, Government is giving its anxious consideration to this matter and it is not impossible that the primary education might be given free after some time.

Coming to the Department of "Public Health," the budget is quite encouraging and I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister in charge for his budget. I am glad to find that about Rs. 10 lakhs have been provided for water-supply and about four lakhs of rupees have been provided for the supply of quinine to fight the scourge of Malaria. But I am sorry to find that no provision has been made in the budget for providing any money for Kala-azar.

The Hon'ble Sir NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Certainly there is provision.

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: You may not know that in certain districts, especially in Rangpur and Mymensingh, this disease is causing great havoc. Kala-azar specifics are given to the poor patients charging a high rate therefor and two annas are charged for each injection. The rate is high for the poor people, because they cannot afford to pay even this small sum. If Government would provide some money for Kala-azar and if they would charge the poor patients for medicine at half the rate now charged, it would be of immense good to them. Therefore I respectfully invite the attention of the Minister in charge of Public Health to provide some money at least to give relieve to the Kala-azar patients.

So far as "Industries" are concerned, I welcome the money budgeted for this purpose and I think the initial step taken by the Cabinet is a step forward. I hope gradually industries will attract more attention of the Cabinet. I am glad to find in the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he will encourage local industries by purchasing the local commodities in Government offices. I would suggest that a circular be issued not only to Government offices but also to the local bodies requesting them to introduce local commodities in their offices. I think this will be of great help to the local industries. I cannot understand what this youth welfare scheme means—

(Here the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:

সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমাদের অর্থসচিব সরকার মহাশয়ের সরকারী বাজেট দেখে এবং [illegible] সঙ্গে তাঁর বক্তব্য পড়ে কেবল একটা কথাই বার বার মনে পড়ছে, সেটা হচ্ছে ভারতের দার্শনিক বাদের অন্তর্গত মায়া বাদের কথায় শুক্তিতে রজতভ্রম। তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতার মধ্যে শব্দের জালে বিভ্রান্ত করার চেষ্টা আছে, তাই অনেক সময় মনে হয় যেন এই বাজেটের মধ্যে বুঝি আমাদের জাতিকে যে সমস্ত সমস্যা অতিশয় ভীষণ ও তীব্রভাবে আক্রমণ কোরেছে তার সমাধান দেখতে পাবো; কিন্তু যতই এই বাজেট সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা করা যায় ততই দেখা যায় যে, এটা রজত নয় শুক্তি মাত্র। নিরন্ন দেশবাসীর অন্ন সমস্যা, জল, বস্ত্রের সমস্যা, মধ্যবিত্ত শ্রেণীর বেকার সমস্যা এই সমুদয় তীব্র সমস্যার সমাধানের ইঙ্গিত এ বাজেটে আমরা পাই না।

এখন আমরা যদি প্রথম থেকে বিষয়টা আলোচনা করি আমরা দেখতে পাবো—অর্থসচিব মহাশয় Civil Works এর জন্য ১৯৩৭-৩৮ সনে ১ কোটী ২৫ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়ের স্থানে বর্ত্তমান বর্ষে আরো ২১ লক্ষ টাকা বেশী ব্যয়ের বরাদ্দ করেছেন। এবং তিনি বলেছেন যে, হঠাৎ কতকগুলি টাকা [illegible] গভর্ণমেণ্টের হাতে এসেছে। সে টাকাটা তাই বোলেই কি যা কোরে হোক ব্যয় কোরে ফেল্‌তে হবে? যেমন আমাদের মফস্বলে দেখতে পাই—বেহিসেবি গৃহস্থ যদি হঠাৎ কিছু টাকা পায় তাহলে সে যেমন বাজারে গিয়ে অনাবশ্যক খেলনা, সাইকেল, প্রভৃতি কিনে সেই টাকাটা বেপরোয়া খরচ কোরে বসে, ঠিক সেইরকম ভাবেই বাংলার গভর্ণমেণ্ট অপ্রত্যাশিতভাবে প্রাপ্ত টাকাগুলি Civil Works এর কাজে লাগিয়ে দিয়েছেন!

তারপর আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি এই বাজেটের মধ্যে এক এক কোরে যে সমস্যাগুলির আলোচনা কোরে অর্থসচিব মহাশয় বলেছেন যে, আমাদের জাতির জন্য কয়েকটি বিষয় তিনি নির্দ্ধারণ কোরেছেন এবং তার প্রথম হচ্ছে শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা। যে দেশে শতকরা ৯৩ জন নিরক্ষর সেই দেশের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার ব্যয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় বরাদ্দ কোরেছেন মাত্র ৩২ লক্ষ টাকা। কিন্তু এই শিক্ষার ব্যাপারেই আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি—৫ কোটি লোকের শিক্ষার জন্য যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট ৩২ লক্ষ টাকার বরাদ্দ দেখিয়েছেন সেই গভর্ণমেণ্টই এংলো-ইণ্ডিয়ান এবং ইউরোপীয়ান, যাদের সংখ্যা ৫০ হাজারের বেশী নয়, তাদের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার ব্যয়ের বরাদ্দ ধরেছেন ৫ লক্ষ টাকা। এর জন্য প্রতিবাদ হয়েছে কি না জানি না, ঐশ্বর্য্যের অফুরন্ত সম্ভার ভোগ করে যে সম্প্রদায় ভারতের বুকের উপর পরম সুখে জীবন যাপন করছে সেই সম্প্রদায়ের শিক্ষাব্যয় বহনের জন্য বাংলার নিরন্ন জনসাধারণকেই কি অর্থ যোগাতে হবে? তাছাড়া যেখানে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার প্রবর্ত্তন হয়েছে সেখানেও প্রকৃত প্রস্তাবে বিদ্যার প্রসার হচ্ছে না, আমার পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা বন্ধুবর দত্ত মহাশয় বলেছেন যে, ময়মনসিংহ জেলায় বিদ্যালয়ের সংখ্যা বাড়ানো তো হয়ই নাই বরঞ্চ কমে যাওয়ায় জাতির শিক্ষার পথ রুদ্ধই হতে চলেছে। এবং আমাদের সন্দেহ হচ্ছে—সেই জন্যই প্রাথমিক শিক্ষাকে বাধ্যতামূলক করবার কোন ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে না। আমরা জানি আজকাল শিক্ষালাভের জন্য জনসাধারণের উৎসাহ বা ইচ্ছার অভাব নাই। জনসাধারণ বিত্ত সম্পত্তি বন্ধক রেখেও ছেলেপিলেদের লেখা পড়া শিখিয়েছে। এ দেশের গৃহস্থের হাল গরু বিক্রয় ক'রে ছেলেকে লেখা পড়া শিখানোর দৃষ্টান্তের অভাব নাই। কিন্তু পরিণামে সে মাত্র বাবু হ'য়ে গিয়েছে, কোন রকম চাকরী পেয়ে অনেকস্থলেই জীবিকা অর্জ্জন কোরতে সক্ষম হয় নাই; সেই জন্য যে হারে শিক্ষিতের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধিপ্রাপ্ত হয়েছে বর্ত্তমানে সে হারে এই বাংলাদেশে শিক্ষার প্রসার হয় নাই, বিশেষ কোরে কৃষক ও শ্রমিক সম্প্রদায়ের মধ্যে। এই অবস্থায় যদি প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জন্য শুধু ট্যাক্স ধরা হয় কিন্তু শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা বাধ্যতামূলক না করা হয় তাহলে সমস্ত প্রয়াস মাত্র পণ্ড-শ্রমেই পর্য্যবসিত হবে।

নিরন্নের ঘাড়ে অতিরিক্ত করভার না চাপাইয়া জনসাধারণের অতি সাধারণ দাবি প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার সামান্য প্রবর্ত্তণেও যে সরকার সক্ষম নন সেই সরকার কিভাবে যে আমাদের দেশে অনাবশ্যক ব্যয়ভারে সমস্ত জাতিকে পিষ্ট কোরছেন তার উদাহরণ পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা দিয়েছেন। বঙ্গীয় ব্যবস্থাপক সভার জন্য পৃথক প্রাসাদ নির্ম্মাণকল্পে ১৫ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়ে যে গৃহ নির্ম্মাণের ব্যবস্থা বাজেটে করা হয়েছে।—এটা বর্ত্তমান সরকারের সকল অপব্যয়কে হার মানিয়েছে। এই কৃত্রিমতার যুগে আমরা অনাবশ্যক ঐশ্বর্য্যের মধ্যে আছি। Assembly ও Council এর Member যে বিরাট সৌধের মধ্যে আছি, যে কৃত্রিমতার আবেষ্টণের মধ্যে আছি এর মায়া ছিন্ন কোরে যদি

বাইরেকার উন্মুক্ত প্রান্তরে সম্মিলিত হয়ে—নিরন্ন নিরাশ্রয় দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করতাম, তাহলে আমাদের মনে এই অসার অপরিমিত কৃত্রিমতার সংস্পর্শ লাগতো না; এই air conditioned ঘরের বন্ধ আবেষ্টনের সঙ্কীর্ণতায় প্রাণ আমাদের এতটা সঙ্কুচিত হয়ে পড়তো না—যার ফলে এই লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা অপব্যয়ের মনোবৃত্তিনিচয় বড় বড় সরকারী চাকুরেদের বেশী টাকা মাইনে দিয়ে আমরা পোষণ ক'রে আসছি। এই প্রসঙ্গে অর্থসচিব মহাশয় বলেছেন যে, বড় ২ চাকুরেদের retrench করা যায় না। এবং সে বিষয়ে তিনি তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় বিশদ কারণ দেখিয়েছেন। কিন্তু আমার বক্তব্য এই যে, আমরা যে বিরাট কৃত্রিমতার মধ্যে আছি একে সংক্ষিপ্ত ক'রে, সঙ্কুচিত কোরে আমরা বহু লক্ষ টাকা বাঁচাতে পারি এবং সেই অর্থে নিরক্ষর কোটি ২ ভ্রাতৃগণের শিক্ষার জন্য—তাদের উপর অতিরিক্ত ট্যাক্স না বসায়েও, ব্যবস্থা কোরতে পারি। তারপর ৫ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়ে একটি পর্দ্দা কলেজ প্রতিষ্ঠার সম্বন্ধে অনেক বলেছেন, অনেক মুসলমান আবার সেটাকে মুসলমান কলেজ কোরতে চাইছেন কিন্তু আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি সমগ্র জগতে আজ যে মুসলমান-দের নব জাগরণ এসেছে সে কি পর্দ্দাকে স্বীকার কোরে, না, পর্দ্দাকে অস্বীকার কোরে! তুর্কির কামাল পাশা কি পর্দ্দাকে স্বীকার কোরে তুর্কি দেশে নব জাগরণ এনেছেন না তাকে অস্বীকার কোরে এনেছেন? আজ আমাদের এই Assembly র মধ্যে যে মহিলারা যোগ্যতার সহিত প্রতিনিধিত্ব কোরেছেন তাঁরা কি বড় হয়েছেন পর্দ্দার আবেষ্টনে নিজেদের প্রচ্ছন্ন রেখে, না, পর্দ্দাকে ছিঁড়ে ফেলে? আজ আমাদের মুসলমাণ বন্ধুগণ পর্দ্দাকলেজ করবার জন্য উঠে প'ড়ে লেগেছেন, অবশ্য একথা সত্য হ'তে পারে যে, নানা ব্যাপারে তাঁদের লজ্জার কারণ ঘটেছে, যদি তাই হোয়ে থাকে তবে পর্দ্দা কলেজ মেয়েদের ঘাড়ে না চাপিয়ে men's পর্দ্দা কলেজ করুন না কেন? তাঁরা যখন যা কিছু কোরতে পারেন তখন সমগ্র জাতির মধ্যেই একটা পুরুষের পর্দ্দা কলেজ করুন না!

যেখানে তাঁরা মেয়েদের শেখাবেন পাশ্চাত্য শিক্ষা, সেখানে সেই শিক্ষা দেওয়ার জন্য আজ হচ্ছে পর্দ্দাকলেজের দরকার এরচেয়ে হাস্যকর ব্যাপার আর কি হ'তে পারে? আমাদের দেশে একটা কথা প্রচলিত আছে যে যখন টাকা হাতে বেশী হয় তখন বেড়ালের বিয়ে দিয়ে লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করে। অর্থসচীব মহাশয়ের এই খরচের বহর দেখে সেই সেই বেড়ালের বিয়ের কথাই আমাদের মনে আসছে।

আজ একটা কথা বলেই আমি আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করবো। তিনি বোলেছেন যে, দেউলিবন্দী নিবাস তুলে দিবার দরুণ ২ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ বেঁচেছে এবং ২ লাখ বেঁচেছে রাজবন্দীদের মুক্তি দিয়ে। যদি বহরমপুরের বন্দীশালাটী তুলে দিয়ে সেখানকার বন্দীদের মুক্তি দিতেন তাহলে কি আরো টাকা বাঁচে না? আমরা অবশ্যই জানি যে, এই হতভাগ্য বাংলাদেশে যারা আইনতঃ অপরাধ করে তারা ২।৩ বৎসর শাস্তিভোগের পরই মুক্তি পায়, কিন্তু যারা দেশের স্বাধীনতার জন্য অপরাধ না কোরেও শুধু সন্দেহবশেই ৭।৮ বৎসর কারাগারের অন্তরালে অত্যাচারিত ও আবদ্ধ রয়েছে তারা আজও মুক্তি পায় নাই। U. P. ও বেহারের মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী রাজবন্দীর মুক্তির ব্যাপার নিয়ে যে পন্থা অবলম্বন কোরেছেন এবং তার জন্য বেহার আর U. P. তে যে মন্ত্রী-সঙ্কট উপস্থিত হয়েছে আমরা বাংলার কাছে অবশ্য সেটা প্রত্যাশা করি না। (VOICES: Certainly not. বরং তার বিপরীতটাই আশা করি, etc.) সেই পদত্যাগের জন্য Viceroy ঘোষণা কোরেছেন—এখন থেকে মন্ত্রীরা আবার কার্য্যে যোগদান ক'রে গভর্ণরদের সঙ্গে একযোগে কাজ করতে পারেন। এবং বর্ত্তমান বাতাস যখন সেই দিকে বইছে তখন বাংলাদেশে বিনাবিচারে নির্ব্বাসিত সেই সকল বন্দীদের জন্য লক্ষ ২ টাকা খরচ সেটা শুধু প্রহসনই নয়, বিদ্রূপাত্মক কাণ্ডই নয়, সে একটা মস্ত বড় নিষ্ঠুরতা।

তারপর অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের জাতীয়তার কথা—হিটলার একসময় বলেছিলেন বাণিজ্য, শিল্প প্রভৃতির বিচ্ছিন্ন চেষ্টায় বড় করা যায় না। শিল্প বাণিজ্যে, জাতিকে মহান ও বিশ্ববরেণ্য করার আদর্শে অনুপ্রাণিত হয়ে যখন ব্যবসাবাণিজ্য ও শিল্পে হস্তক্ষেপ করা যায় তখনই শিল্পবাণিজ্য প্রসার লাভ করে। সরকার মহাশয় জাতিকে শিল্পবাণিজ্যে বড় করবার কথা জানিয়েছেন। যে দিন জাতির প্রাণে, এদেশের নরনারীর অন্তরে উন্নতির নব আকাঙ্খা জাগ্রত হ'য়ে উঠবে সেই দিনই জাতি বিশ্বের মধ্যে তার শিল্পবাণিজ্যকে প্রতিষ্ঠিত কোরতে পারবে—সেই দিনই সে বিশ্বের মধ্যে বরেণ্য হ'য়ে উঠবে, কিন্তু শুধু শিল্পবাণিজ্যের ক্ষুদ্র প্রচেষ্টা দ্বারা জাতি কখনও বড় হ'তে পারবে না। আজ বাংলার মন্ত্রীবর্গের কাছে সে কথা বলা নিষ্ফল এবং সে কথা অর্থসচিব মহাশয় কতকটা স্বীকার

কোরেছেন বলে আমি তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ দিচ্ছি। তারপর Government of India Act বৃটীশ ব্যবসায়ীদের জন্য রক্ষাকবচ সৃষ্টি করে ভারতবর্ষের শিল্পবাণিজ্যের প্রসারকে পঙ্গু ক'রে রেখেছে। এবং যে Government of India Act সাম্প্রদায়িক বাটোয়ারাকে আইনে পরিণত কোরে জাতীয়তা প্রতিষ্ঠার পথে অলঙ্ঘ্য অন্তরায়ের সৃষ্টি কোরেছে, এবং হিন্দু, মুসলমান, খৃষ্টান হিসাবেই জাতিকে ভাবতে শিখিয়েছে—গোটা বাঙ্গালী জাতি হিসেবে নয়। —সেই Government of India Act কে চূর্ণবিচূর্ণ না কোরে জাতিকে শিল্প বাণিজ্যের পরিপূর্ণ ঐশ্বর্যে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করা অসম্ভব। তার জন্য চাই সাহস, চাই বীর্য্যবত্তার সহিত কর্ম্মক্ষেত্রে প্রবৃত্ত হওয়া—বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী আমাদিগকে সে প্রকার কোন ভরসা দিতে পারিবেন কি?

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I offer my heartiest congratulation to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for the budget, which unlike the Ministers in the Congress Provinces he has presented for the coming year. I was not at first inclined to take part in this discussion but the genuine grievances of the community whom I represent here, have compelled me to take part in it.

Sir, it will not be out of place to mention that it is for the first time that I am taking part in this debate, and if I fail in this my maiden attempt to make any impression by my speech I should not be sorry for it. You are no doubt aware that great man Mahatma Gandhi after having taken a brief could not even utter a single word in support of his client, and that as a result he had to refund the money he had taken from him.

Coming to the budget, Sir, I must say that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has made no real provision for the amelioration of the abject condition of the masses and for meeting the present demands of the country. The Finance Minister has budgeted a sum of Rs. 30,000 only for special stipends and scholarships to scheduled caste students and in this connection the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" of the 19th February has said that Moslems and scheduled caste people will greatly appreciate the provisions made for this purpose. I regret to say, however, that almost the entire scheduled caste population comprising 10 millions are illiterate, and that therefore this small sum of Rs. 30,000 is quite inadequate. As far as I can remember—but I do not know whether I am right or wrong—the Finance Minister had assured us that he would provide adequately for the education of scheduled caste people. This, I regret to say, he has not done in the budget which he has just presented. May I in this connection remind him of what the United Provinces and the small province of Bihar—I mean the neighbouring Congress Provinces—have done. Rs. 2,00,000 has been provided for the education of scheduled caste people by the United Provinces Government and Rs. 95,000 for the same purpose by Bihar. And what has been done in Bengal?—A sum of Rs. 30,000 only has been provided. I do not know why this has been so. I understand there are 30 members of the scheduled castes here but in spite of that, our case has been neglected by Government. If this is

done, I find no harm in shifting ourselves on to the Congress fold. Again, though we have been given only Rs. 30,000 in spite of our appalling illiteracy, the Mahomedans have been given Rs. 50,000.

As regards State scholarships for higher education in foreign countries, Rs. 8,000 has been provided, to be jointly shared by Mahomedan and scheduled caste people. I doubt very much if even a small portion of it will come to us.

Then, Sir, the Mahomedans have been given, in addition to Rs. 50,000 under the head "Special Stipends and Scholarships", Rs. 25,000 for Moslem orphanage under the head "Miscellaneous Items," and Rs. 70,000 as additional grants to Moslem Madrassahs. Provision has also been made for a college for purdah girls which, I understand, will cost Rs. 5 lakhs. I do not grudge the facilities offered, being availed of by lady students of the Moslem community, but what I object to is the extravagant expenditure which we are going to incur with this end in view. Then, a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been allotted for the junior madrassah for girls.

From all these what I infer is, that the Finance Minister has been busy enough to meet the unnecessary demands of certain people (OPPOSITION BENCHES: hear, hear), and in doing so he has even forgotten the legitimate claims of his own native district. He may remember that on the occasion of his auspicious visit to Kishoreganj, we approached him on the question of the supply of good drinking water in the district of Mymensingh, and he assured us that he would adopt a policy whereby the problem of water-supply would be solved very soon. As far as I can see, a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is going to be given to the Mymensingh District Board as loan from the Government of Bengal, but, I am afraid, nothing is going to be done in this matter I would ask the members of this House to think of the utter misery of the poor people of Bengal for want of good drinking water in the mufassil.

Now, Sir, I cannot but submit one point more and that is the point of public health. Last year during the summer time there was scarcity of water in our part of the District of Mymensing and all the tanks and wells dried up. The poor cultivators of the villages after working hard throughout the whole day under the heat of the summer sun, could not take rest after his day's toil; and even for a glass of water had to run mile after mile. There were also reports of cattle mortality for want of water. Sir, this was the situation. But who counts the miseries of the people of the rural areas? The Hon'ble Minister in framing his Budget forgot the grievances of the people of his own native district. He was busy enough to find money for other institutions, such as, Santiniketan, Vishwa Bharathi, Bangya Parishad Samity, Youth Welfare Committee, Moslem Orphanage, Sisu Mangal Pratisthan, Purdah College for Moslem girls, construction of new Council Building and

such other things. Of course I admit that time will come when Bengal will be solvent, she will be in a position to provide money for all these schemes. But I am afraid we are not in a position now to provide money to meet so many schemes. I can only say that the Hon'ble Minister was busy in regard to only luxurious programmes.

Now, Sir, I would only mention another grievance regarding the point of irrigation. I understand that Kishoreganj in the district of Mymensingh has been the victim of cholera, malaria and such other epidemic diseases only for want of pure drinking water. Sir, the river which runs from Brahmaputra to Meghna by the side of the Kishoreganj town which is now known as Kauniakhal was opened by Sir Nazimuddin who was then the Minister in charge of Irrigation, and at that time he assured us that he will take special steps so that the river may be re-excavated very soon. I submit, Sir, that if this khal is re-excavated Kishoreganj will be a very good sanatorium and the river itself will be a navigable river also and Kishoreganj will be turned into a prosperous place. Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister, a Minister of my native district, should have thought over the matter beforehand, but he has not, for which I cannot but regret.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: On a point of information, Sir. May I know how long the House will continue? And whether any member on this side of the House will be allowed any opportunity to speak?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already called a member on your side.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an occasion nonetheless an opportunity for the members of this legislature to discuss and criticise the policy of the Government. Unlike the customary annual discussion and criticism just of a debating club which we used to have in pre-reform days, ours should be as those of members of a legislature directly responsible for peaceful and good administration of the country. Our criticism must never be unnecessary and unhealthy. To whatever party we may belong, to whatever view and principle we may subscribe, our aspirations should always be to improve the lot of the toiling masses. At the same time I would request the Cabinet Members also who are there on our support to take into consideration all the suggestions and criticisms the members may make here more seriously and sympathetically. However, Sir, it is gratifying to note that the Ministers have begun to respond to the popular opinions. Scrutinizing their schemes as evident from the budget, we can find some change in their outlook and we can feel their anxiety for doing some good to the people whom they represent. Of course, Sir, the characteristics of the bureaucratic rule of so many ages cannot be done away with in one year or two, but I am sure, Sir, our

dream of a popular and responsible Government in the truest sense of the term will soon be a reality under the leadership of those whom we have allowed to be chosen as our Ministers.

Now, Sir, turning to the budget and the budgetary statement of the Hon'ble Finance Minister I can tell him, Sir, that though he deserves some credit and congratulations from this side of the House who are here to work out the constitution, but not to destroy it, yet he falls far short of our expectations. His theories are all well argumented, but they fail of practical applications. The Hon'ble Minister has made an attempt to place the whole structure on a human background and has described the ultimate aim to be the resurrection of the average man, who in this predominantly agricultural country is the cultivator. This is of course very laudable, but, Sir, I would show to you from facts and figures that his distribution of the national income is not at all well-planned and that little will the average man be benefited.

On the Revenue side, Sir, a very dismal outlook has been presented and I suspect a motive behind it. I think this has been done with the deliberate object of justifying renewal of the old measures of taxation which are going to expire very soon and with a further aim of enforcing new ones. Some of the old measures of taxation may be renewed and reinforced in future, but the Hon'ble Finance Minister must be clearly given to understand that until all possible avenues for retrenchment in the services have been exploited, we are not going to support and will not be justified to support in voting for expiring and new taxation measures.

The budget for the coming year is a deficit budget—a deficit to the extent of Rs. 11 lakhs. Our closing balance of one crore ninety-one lakhs will be reduced to one crore eighty lakhs at the end of the next financial year and after making deductions for compulsory deposits to be kept here and there, we shall have a free sum of one crore twenty lakhs in our hand to meet emergencies. So in spite of the deficit budget, it shows a strong financial position. The gloomy picture presented at the beginning does not exhibit the real state of things, but a mere jugglery to convince people of the necessity of either renewing old measures of taxation or introducing new ones. Now, Sir, let me turn to the expenditure side where lack of foresight, imagination and definite planning have made the whole thing not only anomalous and incongruous, but a huge waste of national resources.

In the Department of Co-operative Credit he proposes to create over 2,000 new Debt Settlement Board and with that end in view he has provided an additional sum of Rs. 12 lakhs and odd. The Bengal Agriculturist Debtors Act is a piece of defective legislation and it has begun to manifest its evil consequences. Until the Act is amended to purge the evil out of it, it will be a sheer waste of the money to create new boards and thereby fill the pockets of the staff that will be

employed for the purpose. So, I would earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister not to spend a single pie from this amount until the Act has been amended. It is better to have the defects first rectified and then to have new boards established.

With regard to rural credit which is so vitally connected with the success of the Conciliation Boards, it will be found that an additional paltry sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs has been provided to offer credit facilities to the cultivators. This is just like throwing a piece of loaf where thousands are hungry. You know, Sir, wherever these Conciliation Boards have been established, the village money-lenders have either closed their doors against the peasants or are exacting unusually high rates of interest. You can easily imagine, Sir, how the problem of washing off the peasant's old debts will be solved with a meagre provision of this paltry sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs in a province where 75 per cent. of the population are heavily indebted and depend on loan for cultivation each year. Lack of balance and indiscretion are nowhere more evident and vividly displayed than in this part of the budget proposals. The whole machinery is likely to go out of gear when there is neither balance nor co-ordination between the different parts. The result is ultimate chaos and confusion and a total waste of all that is spent.

Coming to education I find, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has made a reference to the District of Mymensingh where free Primary Education Act has been enforced. 1,700 schools have already been started, but I cannot accept this statement of the Hon'ble Minister that 2,600 schools will suffice to bring all children of school-going age to the school. I submit, Sir, at least 4,000 schools will be necessary to accommodate pupils of school-going age. In regard to financing these institutions, we shall have about Rs. 9 lakhs as education cess and the Government contribution is Rs. 1 lakh 83 thousand. Nothing short of a further recurring grant of Rs. 5 lakhs will be required in the district of Mymensingh alone to meet its needs for primary education. A provision of an additional amount of Rs. 5 lakhs for the whole province can best be described as a drop in the ocean. This is the way in which the Hon'ble Minister proposes to tackle with one of the crying needs of the day. This sort of stringency in the grant of primary education is nothing short of a crime, because it means total disregard of peoples' wishes and welfare.

In agriculture, Sir, provision of Rs. 16,000 for establishing farms for demonstration in Union Boards, and demonstration of farming methods in villages serves merely an eye-wash. It is really shocking to find that in a pre-eminently agricultural province like Bengal, a paltry sum of Rs. 16,000 will be available for the real benefit of the cultivators of the soil. Most of the money under this head will go to find jobs and offices for some and not a fringe of the real problem will be

touched. To my mind, Sir, if effective work is to be done in this direction a demonstration farm is to be set up in each and every thana if not in every union, so that these improved methods of agriculture are made available to the poor cultivators. There is another huge waste contemplated by allocation of half a lakh for jute restriction propaganda which has failed to return any tangible result in the last few years.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has pointed out under head "Roads and Waterways" that Bengal's share of Patrol Fund are not likely to be received until the accumulations are spent up. The position is that no further money can be expected because the Government could not spend all the money it had received. Not only that, Sir, Government could not even spend the whole money that was last year budgeted. Sir, the District Board of Mymensingh had an elaborate scheme of road development approved by Government some two years ago.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why, this is a seven-year old scheme.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: But the scheme was not undertaken in spite of repeated requests by the District Board, although a vast sum had with the Government accumulated under this head. This is the way, Sir, in which the Government is discharging its obligations and trust to the people. We cannot have a share of money, because we do not spend. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Finance give a reply why he keeps his coffers closed against such an approved scheme of road development.

On the question of retrenchment, Sir, the Finance Minister has made a capital out of a wrong and misplaced simile and he wants to conceal the real fact behind the same. The real issue is whether the country is able in the present circumstances to maintain such a complex and heavy machinery of administration and my answer will be an emphatic "No" (Hear, hear). We want to simplify it and do away with the useless adjuncts. After the whole machinery has been overhauled and the useless adjuncts are done away with, we will surely provide adequate oil and fuel to enable it to run smoothly and effectively and to produce the maximum result.

Now, Sir, the problem of middle class unemployment to-day is of course one of the most baffling questions but that of the agriculturist class, to my mind, is more serious. If the number of the unemployed middle class is by thousands, the number of the other is by lakhs. If that problem is neglected any further, I am afraid, the Government will help the country towards communism. The Hon'ble Minister ought to have made some provision in the budget for an elaborate

scheme for development of industry and for popularizing and encouraging cottage industry. Unless we do that the problem of unemployment will ever remain unsolved.

Before I take my seat, Sir, I must say that although the workmanship of the Hon'ble Finance Minister is not entirely satisfactory, he deserves still some credit for that portion of the work which is beyond and far above criticism. I have criticized him only with a view to directing his efforts to the right channel and if he kindly takes note of the demands of the people, to voice forth which we are here to-day, he will surely have our co-operation and full sympathy from this side of the House.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m., on Wednesday, the 23rd February 1938, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 23rd February 1938, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. Azizul Haque, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 207 Members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Grant for re-excavating the Faridpur-Bhanga Khal.

***53. Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether the Government made a grant for the purpose of re-excavating the Faridpur-Bhanga *Khal* so as to make it navigable all the year round?

(*b*) If so, what is the amount of grant?

(*c*) Has the whole amount of such grant been spent over the said re-excavation?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the re-excavation has not been sufficiently deep and the said *khal* has not been made navigable throughout the year?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by the Government to remedy the said defect?

(*f*) If no step has been taken as referred to in (*e*), is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of enquiring into the causes of the said defect and of remedying the same?

MINISTER in charge of COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Kasimbazar): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Rs. 11,803.

(*c*) The expenditure up to the end of January 1938, has been Rs. 10,000.

(*d*) to (*f*) After the work had proceeded for some time, the local officers reduced the width and depth of excavation in order to keep within the estimate, as they considered that even at the reduced depth, the *khal* would be navigable throughout the year. To be on the safe side, Government are considering a proposal to carry out the scheme as originally designed at an additional cost of Rs. 4,000.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the government are now satisfied that an additional sum of Rs. 4,000 on the *Khal* will make it sufficiently deep to be navigable throughout the year?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: Yes, it is expected that by spending this additional amount, the depth, as was provided in the original estimate, will be made, and I believe that it will be quite sufficient for the passage of fully laden country boats even in the dry season.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be plased to state whether these local officers took the necessary sanction of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, before reducing the width and depth of the canal in question?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: After some progress was made in the work, it was found that it would need more money than Rs. 11,803 in order to work up to the original plan. Consequently the width and depth was reduced.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: My question was whether formal sanction of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, was taken by the local officers, before the reduction of the width and depth of the canal in question.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: The local officers have no power to revise an estimate without the sanction of the Chief Engineer.

Sluice gate in the Dhariakhali Khal.

*54. **Mr. PATIRAM ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state whether he is aware—

(*i*) that an area containing nearly 11,000 acres under the Satkhira police-station in the district of Khulna lies exposed to the ravages of salt current from the Betna carried through the Dhariakhali *Khal*;

(*ii*) that the crops of the locality suffer through such salt current; and

(*iii*) that there is no sluice gate on the *khal* to prevent the inroad of salt current?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of instituting a sluice gate in the Dhariakhali *Khal* near the District Board bridge to drain out the surplus quantity of water?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: (*a*) No definite information is available. The matter will be enquired into.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Public holidays from the year 1791.

*55. **Al-Haj Maulana Dr. SANAULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any record of public holidays in the year 1791; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of Hindu and Moslem festivals for which holidays were given in that year, and

(*ii*) the gradual changes made therein with the corresponding dates?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, may I have your permission, in the absence of the Finance Minister, to answer the question?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Statements giving the necessary particulars are placed on the table.

(i) List of holidays in 1790.

Hindu festivals.

Mohabi Shaba Sankranti	On the 1st of Bysakh.
Akshoy Tritia	On the 7th of Bysakh.
Dasahara	On the 12th of Jogb.
Snan Jatra	On the 17th of Jogb.
Ruth Jatra	On the 1st of Sawan.
Nebriti Jatra	On the 8th of Sawan.
Sraboni Purnema	On the 11th of Bhoun.
Janma Ashtami	On the 20th of Bhoun.
Maha Lya Sradha	On the 26th of Assin.
Doorga Pooja	From 30th of Assin to the 3rd of Kartick.
Deevali	On the 8th of Kartick.
Dipamyata and Shama Pooja	On the 23rd of Kartick.
Bhratree Deetya	On the 25th of Kartick.
Ras Jatra	On the 8th of Aghan.
Uttrayan Sankranti	On the 30th of Pous.
Sree Punchami	On the 28th of Magh.
Bishma Ashtomi	On the 2nd of Falgoon.
Bhomi	On the 5th of Falgoon.
Siboo Ratree	On the 22nd of Falgoon.
Dhole Jatra	On the 9th of Cheyt.
Barni	On the 20th of Cheyt.
Mohabishuba Sankranti	On the 30th of Cheyt.

Mohamedan festivals.

Shub-i-Barat	On the 15th of Shaabun.
Id-ul-Fitr	On the 1st of Shwwal.
Ros Ursub	On the 9th of Tehejjah.
Id-ul-Azlea	On the 10th of Tehejjah.

(ii) List of holidays in—

Number of days.

	1860.	1861.	1862.	1867.	1890.	1914.	Remarks.
Hindu festivals.							
Sree Panchami ..	2	1	2	2	1	2	
Shibaratri ..	2	1	..	..	..	..	
Dolejatra ..	3	1	.	1	1	1	
Baruni	1	1	..	..	..	..	
Sree Ram Nubbony ..	1	1	.	..	..	..	
*Mohabisuba Sankranti	2	1	1	1	1	1	*Corresponding to Chaitra Sankranti.
Dasahara .	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Channjatra ..	1	1	.	.	..	..	
Ruthjatra ..	1	1	.	.	.	..	
Oolta Ruth .	1	1		.	..	..	
Rakhee Poornemah ..	1	1	.	.		.	
Janma Astami ..	2	1	1	1	1	1	
Mohalaya ..	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Durga Pooja ..	8	14	12	12	6	12	
Likhee Pooja ..	2						
Kali Pooja ..	2	1	.	2	2	2	
Bhratri Deteah .	1	1	.	.	..	..	
Kartik Puja ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	
Juggodhathree Pooja ..	2	1	2	2	2	2	
Total ..	35	31	20	23	16	23	
Muhammadan festivals.							
Shub-i-Barat ..	..	1	.	.	..	..	
Id-ul-Fitr	..	1	..	.	1	2	
Roz Urash ..	..	1	.	..	..	..	
Idul-Azlea or Eed-ul-Zoha.	..	1	..	..	1	1	
Moharrum ..	..	.	..	..	2	2	
Faith Doaz Dahum .	..	..	.	..	1	1	
Total ..	..	4	..	..	5	6	

* *Note.*—As from 1891, it covers Act and Executive holidays applying to the whole province but does not include local and sectional holidays.

Al-Haj Maulana Dr. SANAULLAH: Regarding question (*a*), in the statement that has been laid on the Library table the answer is shown for the year 1790, but my question was for the year 1791.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is nothing. Have you got any more questions to ask?

Al-Haj Maulana Dr. SANAULLAH: In the year 1861 there were only 4 holidays for the Muslims, and there was no holiday mentioned in the year 1862 and 1867. Why there is not a single holiday?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The records are not available.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Fateha Yazdeham has been declared as a public holiday for the year 1938.

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of Mahomedan holidays at present provided for as against the number of holidays for the year 1791 for Mahomedans only?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The Hon'ble Member will please look at the comparative table.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: For the present year it is not given.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of making necessary changes in the list of holidays by adding holidays for Fateha Yazdeham.

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question has not been answered. The present year's record is not on the table.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your question?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the difference between the present year's provision for Mahomedan holidays as compared with that for the year 1791.

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise; you can see from the Gazette. What you can see from the Gazette cannot be a matter for question here.

Al-Haj Maulana Dr. SANAULLAH: The sectional and local holidays are not included. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Ramzan also was considered in those days as a sectional holiday or a local holiday?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is difficult to reply to that. I would like to have notice.

Gazaria Block.

*58. **Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) is it a fact that nearly 130 villages constituting 8 unions known as the Gazaria Block in police-station Daudkandi, district Tippera, formerly belonged to police-station Munshiganj in the district of Dacca;

(*ii*) is it a fact that the people of the area submitted repeated representations to Government for retransfer of these villages to the Dacca district;

(*iii*) is it a fact that ultimately the Government of Bengal in 1931 made an administrative sanction of the proposed retransfer but the proposal has not yet been given effect to on the ground of financial difficulty; and

(*iv*) when do the Government propose to give effect to the scheme?

MINISTER in charge of REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy): (*i*) to (*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) In 1938-39 if the requisite provision is voted by the Assembly.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any provision has been made in the budget this year; if so, what is the amount?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I do not exactly remember what is the amount, but provision has been made.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was the last petition filed by the people of Daudkandi.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the people of the locality are unwilling to be transferred to the Dacca district?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: But Government's information is just the other way.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the people of Dacca district are trying their best to have this Block transferred to Dacca district?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir. Government knows it.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the people of Tippera never tried to have this Block transferred to Dacca district?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has been answered. Government's information is to the contrary.

Fall in the number of civil suits.

*57. **Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that there is a fall in the number of civil suits in the districts where the Debt Settlement Boards have been established; and

(*ii*) that the judicial officers have not got sufficient work to do in those districts?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government contemplating reduction in the number of judicial officers or their salaries?

MINISTER in charge of JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) (*i*) There has been some decrease in 1937 in the number of suits instituted in Munsifs' courts in some district; but there has been an increase in about half the districts of the Province.

(*ii*) and (*b*) The situation is being watched; it is still unknown how much work will be involved in hearing appeals under the Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Act.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the appeal from the Ordinary Board lies to the Subdivisional Officer and not to the Munsif?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Well, as far as I see it is with the Munsifs.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he knows that there has been an abnormal fall in the number of suits in the district of Noakhali?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I want notice for that.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many districts there has been decrease, and in how many districts there has been increase?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The words "some" and "half" are there.

Mr. BIRENDRA NATH MAJUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if as a matter of fact, appeals from the Debt Settlement Boards do not lie to the judicial officer, therefore Government may reduce the number of judicial officers?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: If you would look to the purport of the reply you will find that as a matter of fact, there has been an increase in the number of suits in half of the province.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps Government desire to take to compensate the lawyers who have suffered?

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you are not one of them (laughter).

Construction of roads in Pabna.

*58. **Mr. ABDULLA-AL-MAHMOOD:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware that the District Board of Pabna have passed resolutions at their meeting proposing to make over some roads to the Government for construction?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of taking up those roads for immediate repairs?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: I am not aware of any resolution passed by the District Board of Pabna asking Government to construct or improve some roads in the district.

The member is probably referring to the resolution of the District Board asking Government to take over the maintenance of the Pabna-Ishurdi Road. I received a deputation on the subject and shall give due consideration to the matter.

Public meetings on Howrah Maidan.

*59. **Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that Howrah Maidan (which is Government land) used to be utilised for years together for public meetings and specially for meetings of workers;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that now no meetings are allowed to be held there;

(*iii*) when, and under whose orders meetings have been stopped;

(*iv*) whether Government will lay a copy of the order on the table;

(*v*) under what circumstances were such orders passed; and

(*vi*) whether Government are considering the desirability of withdrawing this order now for the convenience of the people?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: May I have your permission, Sir, to reply on behalf of the Hon'ble Home Minister?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you may.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*i*) My information is that public meetings have never been allowed on the Howrah Maidan except very occasionally with the previous permission of the Collector.

(*ii*) It is a fact that no meetings are allowed to be held on this *khas mahal* land without the permission of the Collector.

(*iii*) to (*v*) *Vide* answers given to (*i*) and (*ii*) above.

(*vi*) It is not proposed to alter the existing practice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the purpose for which the Howrah Maidan has been left open? Is it for the use of the public?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is used by the public for recreational facilities.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether I shall be incorrect if I say that I have addressed at least three dozen meetings in the Howrah Maidan?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot allow this question.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that in view of the fact that meetings are being held in the Calcutta Maidan what is the reason for stopping such meetings in the Howrah Maidan?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question has already been dealt with, and you cannot ask it again.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: But I want to know the reason for withholding permission for the holding of meetings in the Howrah Maidan.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: One can hold a meeting with the previous permission of the Collector.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from what time the permission of the Collector is being insisted upon?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: From time immemorial.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Is he aware that Desbandhu Das held several meetings there without the permission of the Collector?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not aware of that fact.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any rule of the Khas Mahal department that for such lands under the Khas Mahal as are left for public use no previous permission of the Collector is necessary for meetings and associations?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not aware if there is any general rule to that effect with regard to Khas Mahal lands, but there is a rule with regard to the Howrah Maidan.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: May I ask what is the source of the Hon'ble Minister's information?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The District Officer.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Is he aware that I personally held several meetings in the Howrah Maidan?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order, that is perfectly known to you. A question is meant for the purpose of eliciting information, but if you give that information yourself, then you cannot ask any question relating to the matter.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is inconsistent with public peace to prohibit such meetings?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. AFTAB ALI: Is it another method of gagging the trade-union movement by not allowing the workers to hold meetings?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that many public meetings have been held and that many public meetings have been addressed by honorable members of this Assembly in the Howrah Maidan, where no previous permission of the Collector was sought?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not aware whether any permission was taken, but I may state here that if persons do something which they ought not to have done, it can hardly be a ground for doing it over again as a matter of right.

Goalundo ghat station.

***60. Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware that the Goalundo *ghat* station is not permanent and shifts every year to the inconvenience of the travelling public?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a proposal is pending with the Government for shifting the Goalundo *ghat* station to a permanent site near Baidyadanga?

(*c*) What steps, if any, have been taken to remove the said station to a permanent site?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, do the Government consider it desirable to take steps for shifting the said station to a permanent site?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) and (*d*) Experience has shown that on account of the vagaries of the river, it is impossible to select a permanent site for the station in the neighbourhood of the place.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Baidyadanga is a safe place for a permanent station for Goalundo ghat?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: The Railway authorities do not think so.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he had been in communication with the Railway authorities about shifting the Goalundo ghat station to Baidyadanga?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: Certainly. The answer I have given is not my personal opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what authority has this Government in the matter of selection of sites for stations? If not, why does he say that he communicated with the—.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot follow your question. Will you please repeat it?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question is: What responsibility have the local Government in selecting sites for Railway stations, to which this question refers? And if they have no responsibility, what—

Mr. SPEAKER: How does your question arise?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SASYAL: The question relates to the selection of Baidyadanga as a site for the Goalundo ghat station, and the Hon'ble Minister has taken cognizance of this question and has replied to it. My submission is that if he is in a position to give an answer, he should also be in a position to select the site. If not, it is no good giving an answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit, Sir, that it is not hypothetical question.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a hypothetical question. As to whether the Hon'ble Minister has got a responsibility or not is quite a different matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He says that experience has shown that on account of the vageries of the river, it is impossible to select a permanent site for the station in the neighbourhood of the place. It appears that he may know.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can ask him only as to what is the source of his information.

Mr. BIRENDRA NATH MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal have any responsibility in the selection of the Goalundo ghat railway station?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbadar: None.

Platform at the Serajganj Bazar station.

*61. **Mr. ABDULLA-AL-MAHMOOD:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that there is no platform at the Serajganj Bazar station on the Sara-Serajganj Railway line of the Eastern Bengal Railway;

(*ii*) that the Serajganj public have moved the authority concerned times without number; and

(*iii*) that much inconvenience is caused to the sick, females, children and to all other passengers in general?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of approaching the Railway authorities in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter was brought to the notice of the Railway authorities who are of opinion that the expenditure for providing a raised platform would not be justified, as the station is situated on an alignment which is subject to alteration with changes in the river.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: With regard to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the site of the station has ever been altered since the last inspection?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: I want notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The powers of the local Government in matters concerning Railways, particularly in the selection of sites for stations, etc., are limited. I admitted this question following the previous practice, so far as matters of general importance are concerned, on the ground that it has been the practice for this Government to communicate the views of the Assembly, public bodies and institutions to the Central Government. But if you want facts, don't think it is fair to put questions of this sort, and further they hardly arise in this connection.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, in answer it has been stated that as the station is situated on an alignment which is subject to alteration——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. That is the opinion of the Railway authorities. The Hon'ble Minister merely conveyed the opinion of the Railway authorities to the House.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: But the answer is given in such a way that it indicates that it is so, which is not a fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: If Ministers are put questions, supplementary or otherwise, for which they are not responsible, the only alternative would be to disallow the question. I have not done it so far, but if such questions are asked, I will have no other alternative but to disallow them. You are perfectly at liberty to ask the Ministers to carry the views of the public to the authorities responsible. If you, however, ask what the opinion of the Government is, then that question must be disallowed.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is ready to communicate with the Railway Department about staircases for carriages at the station?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is insufficiency of light on the platform?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question too does not arise.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: May I ask one question? When you have given the right to the members of this House to know from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Works and Communications regarding matters of the Railway Department, the members are entitled to know from him the exact answer to the question put. But if the answer is of such a nature that it does not give any meaning or gives a meaning contrary to facts and circumstances, then are not the members entitled to ask supplementary questions to get the proper answer?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not interpret that the members are entitled to get an expression of the opinion of Government in a case in which the latter have no responsibility. I interpret it as the view of the Railway authorities which on being brought to the notice of the Government has formed an answer to that effect. If that is the position, the Hon'ble Minister will say so.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Kasimbazar: That is exactly the position.

Communication of remarks in the Confidential Character Rolls against police officers.

*62. **Mr. SERAJUL ISLAM:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state whether the remarks in the Confidential Character Rolls against individual police officers are communicated to officers concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, may I have your permission to reply on behalf of the Hon'ble Home Minister?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you may.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Only remarks which refer to defects of a remediable character are communicated to the officer concerned.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that confidential remark which cannot be made by the officers has a demoralising effect and makes the officer subservient?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Firstly, the question is not very clear and intelligible, and secondly, it is a matter of opinion.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the defects of an irremediable character are not communicated to the officers concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: There is no point in communicating defects of an irremediable character to the officers concerned.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is a rule in the Police Regulations, Bengal, to the effect that remarks against officers in the confidential character rolls must be and shall be communicated to the officers concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not aware of any such drastic rules.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of finding out whether there is any such rules. If so, will he kindly take steps that the rules are complied with?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If there is such a rule, that will be complied with until the same is altered.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what kinds of defects are considered not remediable.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That again is a matter of opinion for the superior officer who communicates the remarks to the officers concerned.

Tobacco Tax.

***63. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Forests and Excise Departments be pleased to state whether he is aware of the hardships and oppressions caused by the Tobacco Tax on the growers of tobacco in the Presidency of Bengal, especially in the district of Chittagong?

(*b*) Is it a fact that tobacco growers are beginning to abandon tobacco cultivation and in consequence the tobacco produce has been decreased in the district of Chittagong during the recent years?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the income on account of Tobacco Tax in the district of Chittagong during the years of 1935-36, 1936-37 and 1937-38?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) The tax is merely a licence fee for the right to sell tobacco. So far as the grower is concerned, he is absolutely unaffected by the tax.

(*b*) No such report has been received.

(*c*) The income on account of Tobacco Tax, in the district of Chittagong, is shown below—

		Rs.	A.
1935-36	...	3,332	8
1936-37	...	6,665	0
1937-38 up to December, 1937	...	6,928	0

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that growers of tobacco have been arrested by the police for not being able to produce license?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I have no such information.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make enquiries?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: If the honourable member supplies specific instances, certainly Government will be pleased to enquire.

Percentage of passes in the Government high schools and colleges.

***84. Dr. H. C. MUKHERJI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to place on the table a statement for the last five years showing in tabular form—

(*i*) the results achieved by Government high schools and colleges;

(*ii*) the number of students that took the final test in these schools and colleges;

(*iii*) the number sent up;

(*iv*) the number passed indicating the divisions in which they were placed; and

(*v*) the percentage of passes to the total number in the class?

MINISTER in charge of EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): The member is referred to reply given to question No. 201 asked by him in the last session of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I very much regret that the answer given to this question contains a mistake; so, with your leave, I would like the answer to stand over till I get the figures.

Finding of stone image in mouza Rajibpur, Dinajpur.

***65. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that a stone image was found by the local people in mouza Rajibpur, within Tauzi No. 147 in the police-station Gangarampur in the district of Dinajpur in the month of September 1936;

(*ii*) that thereafter the image was being worshipped by the people of locality at Shib-Bari *hat* till it was removed by a police officer of the said thana and handed over to the District Magistrate of Dinajpur;

(*iii*) that objections were filed under Treasure Trove Act; but

(*iv*) that the image has not yet been returned to the people or to the *zemindar* within the jurisdiction of whose *zemindari* it was found?

(*b*) Are the Government contemplating the return of the image to the people who were worshipping it or to the *zemindar*?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) An image of "Sadasiva" *with two of its hands broken* was found in October, 1936, by two Santhal labourers engaged by the Italian Missionaries, in the course of excavating land within the protected area of Bangarh near the compound of the Roman Catholic Mission at Rajibpur. The image was made over by the labourers to the local *zemindar's* agent and was worshipped for some time by the people. It was then acquired from the agent by the Collector after serving a proper notice under the Treasure Trove Act and kept with the Gangarampur police.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) No formal objection was made under the above Act, and the image, which was found ownerless, was acquired on behalf of Government and made over to the Superintendent, Archæological Survey of India, for preservation in the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is a mandatory provision in the Treasure Tove Act that in acquiring such properties, Government should deposit the value of the property for distributing it between the finders and the proprietors of the land where they are found, and if so, have Government deposited that money?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Upper division assistants in the Revenue Department and the office of the Board of Revenue.

*66. **Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of upper division assistants in the Revenue Department and in the office of the Board of Revenue, respectively;

(*ii*) the number of them that are—

(*a*) Hindus, and

(*b*) Muslims;

(*iii*) the procedure followed in the Revenue Department and in the Board of Revenue office in filling clerical posts; and

(*iv*) whether the same principle is followed in the two offices; if not, why not?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*iii*) Lower division posts in the Revenue Department are filled up in accordance with the procedure laid down in section 37 of the Secretariat Instructions and upper division posts under section 30.

Lower division posts in the office of the Board of Revenue are filled up by candidates allotted by Finance Department from the list prepared on the result of Secretariat clerkship examination while upper division posts are generally filled up by promotion subject to the condition recently imposed that to maintain the prescribed Muhammadan percentage in the upper division, direct recruitment should be resorted to if suitable Muhammadan clerks are not available in the lower division for promotion.

(*iv*) So far as the lower division posts are concerned, the principle followed is the same in both the offices. But with regard to upper division posts in the Board's office, the principle is slightly different as direct recruitment is not followed except to the extent as stated in (*iii*) above. The reason for this is that in the upper division of the Board's office experienced men are vitally necessary. These cannot be obtained by direct recruitment.

Designation of "Pod" in the list of Scheduled Castes.

***67. Mr. PATIRAM ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether he is aware—

(*i*) that the community known as "Pod" in the list of the Scheduled Castes demanded "Poundra-Kshattriya" as their caste name;

(*ii*) that accordingly the Government allowed that the community might be described as "Poundra" in the Census of 1921 and after; and

(*iii*) that in the subsequent Census the community lost the privilege that was acceded to it and was again named as "Pod" in the Census of 1931; and also in the Scheduled Castes list published by the Government?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the term "Pod" is a corruption of the term "Poundra" according to the rules of Prakrit Grammar;

(*ii*) that till now a section of the community inhabiting the districts of Malda, Rajshahi, Birbhum and Murshidabad goes by the name "Punro" which has an affinity with the term "Poundra";

(*iii*) that histories of past and present and the Census Report for 1901 (page 425) subscribe in favour of the name; and

(*iv*) that the claim to the "Poundra-Kshattriya" has been supported by the learned Pandits of Benares, Bhatpara and Nawadwip?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an enquiry into the matter with a view to approving the name "Poundra-Kshattriya" for "Pod"?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) No.

(*iii*) In the Census of 1921 the community was shown as "Pod" (Poundra). In the Census Report of 1931, Part II (Tables), the designation used is "Pod" (Poundra, Padmaraj, Poundra Kshatriya).

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Mr. KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government have any objection to pen through all the words except "Pondra Kshatriya" from the Census?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government cannot pen through the words because the Census report has already been published and Government cannot tamper with the Report. But if that will please the community, Government will certainly have no objection in using the word "Poundra Kshatriya" in future.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in some of the electoral rolls prepared for the Assembly election there were relations of certain persons who were classed as "Pods" or "Poundra Kshatriyas" some of whom appeared in the Scheduled Castes and others in the general list?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I have no information.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there is at least one number of this Assembly, who was classed in the ordinary general list applied for his name to be transferred to the Scheduled Castes because he happens to be a "Pod" and his relations even now continue in the general list?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I have no information.

Intelligence Branch and Criminal Investigation Department officers in the Bengal Police Force.

***68. Mr. SERAJUL ISLAM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to lay a statement showing in the Intelligence Branch and Criminal Investigation Department—

(*i*) the number of—

(1) Handwriting experts,

(2) Finger-print experts, and

(3) Foot-print experts;

(*ii*) General Investigating staff; and

(*iii*) the number of them that are Muslims?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table another statement showing—

(*i*) the number of inspectors there are in the Bengal Police Force;

(*ii*) the number of them that are Muslims;

(*iii*) the number of sub-inspectors there are in the Bengal Police Force;

(*iv*) the number of them that are Muslims;

(*v*) the number of inspectors and sub-inspectors there are in the District Intelligence Branch and District Criminal Investigation Department in Bengal; and

(*vi*) the number of them that are Mussalmans?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Two statements are placed on the table.

Statement referred to in the answer to clause (a) of starred question No. 68.

	Total No.	No. of Muslims.
Handwriting experts	2	Nil
Finger-print experts	17	2
Foot-print experts	1	Nil
General Investigating Staff (*i.e.*, of the rank of Inspector and Sub-Inspector)—		
Criminal Investigation Department..	36	10
Intelligence Branch	45	5

Statement referred to in the answer to clause (b) of starred question No. 68.

	Total No.	No. of Muslims.
Inspectors in the Bengal Police (Permanent).	262	64
Sub-Inspectors in the Bengal Police (Permanent).	1,596	625
Inspectors in the District Intelligence Branch	31	Nil
Sub-Inspectors in the District Intelligence Branch	101	9

Note.—There is no District Criminal Investigation Department. In the Detective Departments (which are sanctioned in the districts of the 24-Parganas and Howrah) however, there are 2 inspectors and 6 sub-inspectors of whom 1 sub-inspectors is a Muhammadan.

BUDGET DISCUSSION.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I cannot be a party to the wholesale condemnation that has been indulged in by some of my friends in criticising the budget nor can I sing an unbroken eulogy. I am prepared to congratulate the Hon'ble Minister on the fine sentiments he has expressed in presenting his budget which we are all gratified to find is a prosperity budget, but we do not know the reason why the Hon'ble Minister, has shown it as a deficit one. I shall not confine my congratulations to his fine sentiments alone; I am prepared to applaud his performance also, to a certain extent. He has given ample proof of his worth in his dexterous handling of the budget; his marshalling of figures is quite masterly; his cautiousness, however, has exceeded that of all previous Finance Members of this Province. His vision is wide enough and his heart is also generous. He has a kind word for everybody and his doles extend over a very wide field. He seems to be anxious to please one and all and I am afraid this mentality must be responsible for his failure too. He has certainly succeeded as a dole-giver but the question is whether this dole system of budgetting can be for the good of the country. What is needed is a comprehensive plan. What he has done is this: in his eagerness to feed the isolated cells of the body he has altogether ignored the requirements of the organism as a whole and I am afraid such faulty feeding can never enliven the body politic if I may say so. It is deplorable that there is no planned attack on any of the burning problems of the day. One valuable year is lost in vain and if that is an indication I am afraid, the four remaining years also will be equally barren.

Now let me take up some individual instances. The primary education is certainly one of the chief problems of the day as the Hon'ble Minister also has been very kind to admit. But so far as this burning question is concerned, our Cabinet does not seem to know its own mind. Whatever halting steps are being taken are not due to genuine urge from within but on account of constant goading from outside. The Hon'ble Minister seems to be torn between two opposite ideas, namely, the idea of taxation and that of no taxation for the purpose of making primary education free and compulsory, and that is the reason why the Government has no fixed policy whatsoever so far as this important question is concerned. The only policy that they seem to have is one of drift. Some districts are coming up with proposals to impose the education cess, Government says "All right we shall help those districts." But there are other districts and these are the majority which are fighting shy of coming up with such proposals. What are the Government doing so far as those districts are concerned? I want to ask this question: has the Government raised its

little finger for inducing any district in Bengal to impose the education cess or has the Government helped other districts which are not willing to impose the education cess in any way whatsoever, in the cause of free and compulsory primary education? At a time of prosperity like this Government, I think, might have done wonders so far as this problem is concerned, but instead of a determined effort, we find that the Government has no policy of its own and the result is frittering away of energy and resources for purposes of comparative unimportance. It is, however, somewhat gratifying that some provision has been made for the training of teachers of primary schools. That seems to be a move in the right direction and should be vigorously pursued. What we want is a comprehensive scheme for making primary education free and compulsory within a certain number of years. Yesterday we were astonished to hear an announcement from the Hon'ble Chief Minister. We all know that in the district of Mymensingh the education cess has been already imposed; the cess is being realised and yet what has been achieved there? Nothing. Primary education has not been made compulsory. I am one of those who are in favour of imposing the primary education cess, but yet I shall be the last person to be a party to the imposition of that cess if primary education is not made compulsory as soon as the cess is levied. I hope the Hon'ble the Chief Minister will reconsider the declaration he made yesterday and will see that the primary education is made free as well as compulsory throughout the country within a short time. In a year of prosperity like this Government can easily make primary education free at the first instance throughout the country without any delay and the question of compulsion might come later in respect of those districts where the cess is not imposed. I do not know why instead of following that easy and reasonable policy the Hon'ble the Chief Minister says that it is not yet time for primary education being made compulsory even in a district where the cess has been imposed.

So far as secondary education is concerned, the increased provision for giving aid to non-Government schools seems to be quite welcome, but what is to my mind of very great importance in this: that there are no schools in certain areas inhabited by the poorer sections of the community, and it is very necessary that new schools should be started in those localities if secondary education is to be brought home to them. Government should in every way help the establishment of schools in such areas.

The proposal to establish a Purdah College has met with a very great adverse criticism. I do not know who the author of that term "Purdah College" is. This is the first time that the word "Purdah" has been used in connection with an educational institution and I think much of the misunderstanding has been due to the use of that unfortunate word. The Hon'ble Finance Minister ought to have taken this House a little more into his confidence as regards the

details of the proposal. If the intention is to raise the Sakhwat Memorial Girls' School to the status of a College, it seems to me that this is a move in the right direction. We know that the Government is paying a heavy rent about a thousand rupees a month, I suppose—for the house in which the Sakhwat Memorial Girls' School is located. If a suitable house is constructed for that school with the money provided and that school is gradually raised to the status of a college, I think there can be no exception to that proposal. A Purdah College does not, I think, mean that the students of that college must observe purdah in the sense in which the word is mistakenly used nowadays. Parda does not mean seclusion. The only difference will be that Muslim girls will have their education under certain environments which the community desires. And I shall have no objection if a certain number of non-Muslim girls are admitted until girls of the Muslim community come up in sufficient numbers to fill the classes of the college. Muslim environment is the thing we require. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is that? What is Muslim environment?) I should like to say one thing, Sir, in this respect. I have already dealt with primary education, but if, instead of spending this money for the establishment of a college, Government concentrated its efforts mainly on primary education, then that would have been a more welcome proposal. But as we see that money is being wasted on many other less urgent and unimportant schemes, why should not then a college for Muslims girls also be established. We have seen that a huge amount, namely, 2½ lakhs has been set apart for Youth Welfare work. We do not know what is really intended. If money can be spent for purposes like that, then certainly a college for Muslim girls is far more important than that. The provision that has been made for scholarship to the Moslem community and to the Scheduled Caste communities, also seems to be welcome. In this connection I would only like to remind the Chief Minister of a resolution which he himself once sponsored in the Old Council to the effect that an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs should be set apart for giving scholarship to Moslem students. If it is the intention of Government to bring the educationally backward classes into line with the advanced sections of the community, then I think some bold step ought to have been taken, and not these mere tinkering pin-pricks, which I think, will not be of any great avail. Again Sir, jute is one of the major problems of our day. Here also, we find that no definite plan has been disclosed by the Finance Minister except an assurance that the wasteful and impotent propaganda for voluntary restriction will be continued during the coming year also. We think, Sir, that money is being wasted on this propaganda. I was in favour of such propaganda when Government used to declare that that was only an *ad interim* step, and that voluntary propaganda would be followed by a policy of compulsory

restriction. But we find that Government has been hoodwinking us with mere dilatory steps and is not at all in earnest about restricting jute cultivation by compulsory means. I think, therefore, that the money wanted for this voluntary propoganda should not be granted. But it may be said by the Finance Minister that a sum has been set apart for a jute census. Here also, the Finance Minister has not been pleased to explain his proposals to the House. Sir, what is the exact nature of the proposed jute census, and how long will it take? Is it the purpose of Government to restrict the cultivation of jute by legislation ultimately and is it with that view that the census is being taken? These are questions which have arisen in the minds of most members of this House, but the Hon'ble Finance Minister has not taken us into his confidence regarding such questions. He has assured us that so far as rural indebtedness is concerned, we shall have debt settlement boards, probably in each union board area, in the course of the coming year. That seems to me a welcome proposal, but those who know about the working of these debt settlement boards are aware that unless some more powers are given to these boards, simply addition to their number will be of very little avail.

Mr. R. M. SASSOON: Mr Speaker, Sir, I fear that in giving my support to the Finance Minister the true merits of the Budget as introduced by him have not been fully appreciated by some members in this House who have spoken. I feel that the opposition might have supplied something more constructive by way of criticism, and so assisted us all to appreciate their point of view. Instead, I find that they have indulged in their harangues which have singularly failed to shake the Budget

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon'ble member entitled to use the word "harangue" when describing speeches delivered by members of this House?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the word "harangue" is not very courteous to members of this House, if it is not altogether unparliamentary.

Mr. R. M. SASSOON: The Budget itself has borne out in ample measure the anticipations of Bengal's financial future; but a note of caution is sounded by the slight deficit which appears for next year. I find that the total revenue for 1938-39 is put at Rs. 13 crores 13 lakhs which is 30 lakhs below the revised estimates for the current year. The Finance Minister has been wise to make allowance for the recent drop in world prices which is certain to reflect largely on his two big sources of revenue—Jute and Income-Tax. The trade outlook to-day is not as bright as it was and it generally indicates some reduction in

general activity. Moreover, political disturbances both in Europe and in India can and will do a great deal of harm and we must be prepared for this. The recent fall in commodity prices is also a factor which we cannot ignore, and in due course it must in due course affect the purchasing power of the primary producers.

Turning to the expenditure side of the budget, this amounts to 13 crores 25 lakhs and is 1¼ crores more than the revised estimate. Of this, 1 crore is set apart for entirely new schemes for national development. (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: No scheme at all!) Surely some praise is due for this bold and energetic effort which I consider is the feature of the Budget. We have heard a good deal about rural uplift and economic reconstruction. So, here, Sir, I consider that the foundation stone has been laid for economic development. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Only some new appointments.) On looking to see how this sum of money is to be spent, I find that it has been spread over a very wide field, and to mention only a few, debt settlement, rural credit, education, agriculture, industry, public health, irrigation and youth welfare schemes all benefit. I am glad to see that measures are to be taken to ensure an expenditure of Rs. 26 lakhs on roads. The state of the roads in this province and the lack of them is fairly well known and I expect the Finance Minister will hear much more about this in the next few days.

In my speech last year I welcomed the Debt Conciliation Boards which have been formed to deal with rural indebtedness and I am glad to notice that the number during the next year is to be increased and a further sum of 10 lakhs is to be spent in this direction.

I am also glad to observe that Co-operative Credit is to receive particular and expert attention and I welcome the attempt to send officers abroad to study up-to-date methods even though my friends on the right side of the House would look no further than the Punjab for their enlightenment.

I welcome the effort made to encourage small industries and I would strongly recommend the educated unemployed of this province to turn their attention more in this direction than in other loftier channels.

Under the head of retrenchment, I am pleased to see that no effort is being spared to go into this thoroughly and the House, I am sure, will welcome the White Paper which is to be issued shortly. We are aware that a very considerable reduction suggested in the Swan recommendations has already been given effect to.

The Finance Minister has been criticised for not formulating a definite and gigantic scheme for the welfare of the masses. While we would welcome such a scheme, if practicable, surely it is apparent that we have not the finance available? For a province of the size of

Bengal with a population of 50 million, the revenue at Rs. 13 crores is by no means a large one. Much has also been heard of the hungry millions but the Finance Minister appears to be the only one who has done anything to ameliorate their sufferings.

It is disturbing to think that the extent of fluctuations in revenue can amount to as much as Rs. 4 crores and considering that the present figures represent a half way stage, we must assume that should we experience a depression, the Revenue would decline considerably and we hope that the estimates for 1938-39 will not be unduly falsified by subequent facts. What we have to bear in mind is that the Finance Minister with the resources at his command has covered a large field.

May I be permitted to reiterate what has been said by our Leader in regard to the emergency taxes. And in regard to one alone, I should like to point out that when the Electricity Duty was first promulgated in 1935 it was meant to bring in 10 lakhs of rupees. That this was an under-estimate will be appreciated when the receipts for 1937-38 was 18 lakhs and I am aware that this figure is likely to continue growing. We have heard much about cheaper electricity during the last few days for consumers and I can do no more than suggest that the Government should remove this burden of ½ anna per unit.

I listened with much interest to the Hon'ble Minister's concluding remarks, and appreciate and I think I understand his point of view. It may be unnecessary, in view of his saying that he does not wish to preach rank socialism, but I feel that perhaps I should sound a note of warning. I hope he has no intention of undermining the profit motive. Men are not equal in this world and those of greater ability, greater energy, and, shall we say, greater bravery, in the taking or making of their opportunities, are surely entitled to fare better than their brothers. The levelling of results for all people can only destroy initiative and in the issue must lower the general standard of any nation.

I do not wish to digress on what many may consider a controversial subject, but I would request the Hon'ble Minister not to overlook the point of view which I have briefly put forward and I would ask him to remember that while he has a reasonably large and a reasonably contented body of tax-payers, it is fair to assume that he will have at his disposal funds for nation-building. If this is not appreciated and if steps are taken to bring all men to a common level, there can be no help provided by the more gifted to the less gifted; and the logical conclusion is that national works must be undertaken by the conscripted labour of citizens who must give up a portion of their time, a portion of their freedom to labour gratuitously for the general good, or perhaps, for general mediocrity.

One final word. I would rather emphasise that the advancement of the country must come from the energy and initiative of the people

themselves and I would draw the attention of the House to the Finance Minister's own words.

He said—"The final responsibility for national prosperity must therefore be with the people, with all those in whom by reason of status or of attainment vests the leadership of the community".

In conclusion, I warmly congratulate the Hon'ble Mr. Sarker on the great task which he has acquitted so creditably.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I have heard with rapt attention the learned lecture of my honourable friend Mr. Sassoon. He has accused us at the very start that we, the members on this side of the House, are only to oppose the Finance Minister and that we have not given any constructive suggestions. I have been disappointed also, Sir, to find that my honourable friend Mr. Sassoon has not given any constructive suggestion. He has accepted what the Finance Minister has done as quite perfect and he does not think that any change is necessary.

Sir, I may tell this House and the Finance Minister that we, the members of this side of the House, are all prepared to offer our hands of co-operation to him for the reconstruction of the economic structure of this province. We know that the whole nation is smothering under various kinds of wants and miseries, and we feel that the nation is almost on the verge of starvation and ruin. The sooner the economic condition of the country is improved, the better for the nation, otherwise there is the impending danger of a revolution to come. But when I think of any constructive scheme I shrink within myself, because I feel the outlook of the Government which has been expressed through the outlook of the Hon'ble Finance Minister is quite unsuited to the purpose of our giving any constructive scheme. Sir, he has said in his financial statement that there are many problems affecting the economic condition of this country, and he has viewed all these problems against the human background and has observed that his aim was to resurrect the average man who in this predominantly agricultural country is the cultivator; and in the forefront of his policy and programme directed towards this endeavour, he has placed three problems, namely, relief of rural indebtedness, spread of primary education, and the stimulation of prices of agricultural commodities through improved methods of production and better marketing facilities. But, alas! towards the solution of those problems he has, as I find in the budget, allotted an aggregate sum of Rs. 19,18,300 only. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister knows that the measures he has adopted will be absolutely unable to cope with those problems. So he has shifted the responsibility of their final solution on the leaders of this country. He has contented himself by saying that the best of the budget is one which provides for financial soundness, and that without further taxation it is not possible to find out more finance to do any constructive work

with regard to the real improvement of the economic condition of this country. And he is afraid of such taxation. This is how he has approached the cultivator and his problems. Sir, I may say that he has visualized the cultivator as a beggar who has appeared with a begging bowl at the door of the Government House, and he in charge of that House has offered him some words of sympathy and some promises of benefit. So long as that will be his mentality, no scheme from this side or from anybody will be of any use. He has forgotten the true picture of the cultivator of this country. Sir, we, the members on this side of the House, find in the cultivator the nation itself. And metaphorically I may say that he is the mother to this country. It is the cultivator who is supplying food materials to this country; it is he who is supplying raw materials for the development of industry in this country; it is he who is supplying money for the professionals; it is he who is directly and indirectly responsible for the expansion of trade, directly responsible so far as the agricultural products are concerned, and indirectly responsible so far as the industrial products are concerned. Sir, it is he who is responsible for the expansion of all the avenues of life, and I may say that he is the backbone of the society. So, I may aptly say that if the cultivator dies who lives, and who dies if the cultivator lives? That is how we on this side of the House look at the cultivator.

Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is aware that unless the condition of the peasantry is improved, a revolution is imminent, but he has contented himself by simply warning the public leaders of the impending revolution, as if he and his colleagues of the Government are quite safe and the people who are to perish in that revolution are the public But he and his colleagues do not know that they will perish before others, if and when that revolution comes. Anyhow, Sir, we are prepared to give constructive suggestions if the Hon'ble the Finance Minister assures us that he will give his serious attention to it. Sir, in this very House in the last session as well as in this session, we submitted a resolution which set forth a comprehensive scheme for the amelioration of the masses and the reconstruction of the economic condition of this country. Sir, our suggestion is that a big loan be raised upon certain revenues of the Government. The question is where is that revenue? We find that the Budget provides for no such revenue as may be expended except the land revenue, we are aware that about 17 crores of rupees are being realized from the cultivating tenants by the landlords from the proprietor down to the raiyat. If Government acquires the rights of those landlords by purchase, these 17 crores of rupees may come to the coffers of the Government, and the Government may have an additional net income of several crores. And on that additional income Government may raise a huge loan, I shall not deal with the figures at this stage, but I shall only say

that if the interests of the landlords be purchased at a fair compensation, then several crores may be added to the revenue of the Government, on the security of which they shall be able to raise a loan of more than 200 crores. On that assumption we submitted a resolution to form a Committee with power to co-opt experts to formulate a scheme and to suggest legislative measures required to give effect to the same. The proposed scheme is to take immediate steps to acquire all landed interests in the agricultural lands of the province above those of the cultivating tenants including private fishery rights above those of *bona fide* fishermen; to set apart out of the nett additional revenue therefrom an adequate amount for free primary education so that each village may have the benefit of a primary school and another adequate amount for dispensaries for men and cattle, to that each union may have one such dispensary; to capitalise the balance by a loan on G. P. Notes at an interest of three half per cent. per annum payable in 99 years; to disburse the loan so raised for payment of fair compensation for the interests acquired on the basis of loss of net incomes derived therefrom; to advance fifty crores of rupees to the indebted agriculturists towards the liquidation of their debts as loan repayable in 20 years at a rate of interest not exceeding 5 per cent. per annum.

Sir, here I should stop and say that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has raised the question of relief of rural indebtedness, but he has not laid down even the outlines of a scheme to, enable him to liquidate that debt. But ours is a scheme to wipe out the entire debt of the agriculturists for the time being. They are indebted to the extent of about 100 crores, but the Banking Enquiry Committee in their report stated that these 100 crores of rupees of debt could be wiped out by payment of 50 crores. Herein we have proposed that the debts of the agriculturists be paid up by this advance of 50 crores of rupees. Then again, our scheme is to establish agricultural banks in all unions to advance loans to the agriculturists at a small interest against hypothecation of crops or mortgage of lands, as the case may be. Sir, herein also I should stop and say that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister admitted that the agriculturists were suffering for want of credit, but passed over that question by saying that rural credit was receiving the best attention of the Government. Our scheme is to restore that credit to them. Then again the resuscitation of the death and dying rivers and channels and opening out new channels wherever necessary, are the things we badly want. The economic distress of the peasants is due mainly to the uneconomic holdings, to the fall in the fertility of the land and also to the fall in the price of land products. This, the Finance Minister has also admitted. But to raise the fertility of the land requires resuscitation of the rivers and channels as I have said before and this requires a huge sum of money. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has passed over this

question also saying that it is big scheme which requires too big an amount of money to be provided for. But we have proposed that this big scheme be taken up and have suggested how to get the necessary funds. We have also proposed for provision of marketing facilities for jute and other agricultural products, so that the poor agriculturists may get proper price for their crops. Our scheme further provides for grants of subsidies to *bona fide* agriculturist for developing the undeveloped lands in the province. I shall tell this House that about 2 crores of bighas of land of this province are culturable waste. The Government is paying subsidies to the Public Works Department and many other departments also; if the Government pays a subsidy to *bona fide* agriculturist to cultivate and develop these undeveloped lands which are lying waste, then a large amount of revenue may come to the coffers of the Government and these lands may be distributed to the agriculturists to make up the deficiency in their holdings. Then, Sir, we have provided also for agricultural education and research and the establishment of industrial banks for the purpose of advancing small loans to trained young men and to agriculturists to whom owing to smallness of holdings agriculture is not a dependable means of livelihood, for starting small industries. On this point, Sir, I should dilate a little. The average holding is very small and the average agriculturist cannot produce sufficient crops to maintain himself, his wife and children throughout the year. The crops that he produces may provide him and his family at best for six months on average. Until his holding is made economic, some such measures should be adopted so that he may add to his income. Sir, for that purpose small rural industries should be set up in the villages with the help of the Government, so that the agriculturists may get an opportunity to add to his income. The educated and trained young men also need be helped to set up cottage industries and other industries to earn their livelihood. Sir, lest I forget I should suggest in this connection that if the Finance Minister does not think it his worthwhile to consider the scheme I have outlined, then he should forthwith advise the Government to encourage the establishment of rural banks for making short-term credit loans to the agriculturist by inviting the public to float a limited banking company with branches in the rural areas with a capital of, say, 5 crores of rupees and also one or two more limited companies with an aggregate capital of, say, 10 crores to finance the aforesaid industrial institutions, I mean the industries for the agriculturists and the trained young men. I want the Government only to guarantee payment of 4 per cent. dividend to the capitalists who will be invited to subscribe this capital to these companies. If they do so, I can assure this House that within a month these 15 crores will be raised, and everything necessary may be possible to be done. Sir, assuming that guaranteeing 4 per cent. dividend for these 15 crores means spending 60 lakhs, the Finance Minister should not shrink. He has set apart one crore of rupees, as

additional expenditure, and he has taken pleasure in announcing to this House "I have set apart one crore for nation-building departments". When he has been so kind, let him be a little more kind to the suffering millions to an additional sum of 60 lakhs. I can assure him that he will not have to spend that amount, but he will only set apart that 60 lakhs. I am sure that these companies will not be losing concerns. Then, Sir, we have proposed for other things also, *i.e.*, supplementing the existing grants from Government and local bodies for irrigation, erection of school buildings in villages, erection of dispensary buildings in unions, the construction of tanks and wells in the rural areas, provision of pasture and fodder-producing land in the villages and the improvement of the breed of cattle, and we have also proposed for the establishment of a famine and unemployment fund. I shall now come to the figures. If the landed interests are purchased, then about 10 crores of rupees may be added as a net additional revenue to the Government. Out of that 10 crores 1 crore may be set apart as recurring grant for primary schools. So, there shall be no need of taxation for primary education. 50 lakhs may bet set apart for dispensary grants, for disposal in each union board, so that the poor villagers may get medical aid. Setting apart 1 crore and 50 lakhs, we get a balance of 8 crores and 50 lakhs. A loan of about 229 crores may be raised thereon, making the loan payable in 99 years at 3½ per cent., and out of that, paying compensation for acquisition of landholders' interests by 114 crores, a balance of 114 crores may be available for spending on real nation-building works and thus the nation may be saved. This is my request to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to do. If he is prepared to look to this constructive suggestion, let him invite the members on this side of the House to sit with him and to suggest ways and means as how to give effect to the scheme.

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After Adjournment.)

Khan Bahadur Syed ABDUL HAFEEZ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to offer a few comments on the general principles embodied in the Budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister and would say at the very outset that we wish the substance of his proposals would have been as excellent as their form. I would congratulate him on an excellent Budget speech, but I regret that I cannot extend the same welcome to his Budget.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has rightly said that the pressing problems of the day are there of rural indebtedness, primary education and stimulation of prices of agricultural commodities. I would express all of them as one problem, viz., the problem of the improvement

of the rural economics of Bengal with corresponding amelioration of the conditions of the peasants. For this colossal problem, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has suggested some tinkering measures. The expansion of the Debt Conciliation Boards may do a little good, but they cannot touch even a fringe of the real problem. What are Conciliation Boards to do unless the agriculturist has an income which meets his most urgent and pressing needs, and leaves him with a little surplus which he may utilize for the purpose of paying off his debts? And that question, I regret Mr. Speaker, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has carefully avoided.

If we analyse the causes which are at the basis of the collapse of the rural economy of Bengal, I think we shall all agree that one of the foremost is the pressure of the population on the land, and the intricacy and unsatisfactory nature of the land laws of the province. It is, Sir, an open secret to-day that the tenants of the province pay in money or kind the colossal sum of almost Rs. 16 crores, and out of that only about 2½ crores reach the public exchequer. Even these 2½ crores are not all spent for the welfare of the agriculturists, for unfortunately in our province, the cost of running the administration eats up a disproportionate amount of the public revenue. In other countries, the social uplift services and national welfare measures are the most important charges upon the public revenues, but in our country, the public servants flourish at the cost of the public, and administration looms larger in the budgetary provisions than the expenses of social welfare schemes. But even if the 2½ crores derived from land revenues were spent entirely in the service of the agriculturists, this is but a fraction of the contribution that they make to the national revenues. As I have already said they pay to the extent of about 16 crores, and receive back only a bare fraction of that in services. The result is starvation of the nation-building departments, the result is stagnation and deterioration of rivers and irrigation channels, the result is the decadence in the health and welfare of the rural populations. The conditions of the rural areas must be improved, but we are told by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that there is not sufficient money. We ask—why not tap the resources which the revenues of the province offer? The tenantry pay 16 crores and that is a modest estimate; allowing 12 per cent. for collection charges, the State could benefit to the extent of almost ten crores a year if the whole of this money could be realized by the State. I shall be told that there are difficulties in the way, but I would urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the Cabinet that the time has come when difficulties must be faced and courageous steps taken for improving the economy of rural Bengal. The landlords pay about 2½ crores to the State and collect about 16 crores. Even allowing for their collection charges, they intercept at least 10 crores of rupees every year, and if need be,

the State may buy all their interests and finance the project out of the total accretion to its revenue. The increase in State revenue would be in the neighbourhood of about 10 crores a year. Capitalized at 3½ or even 4 per cent., that would give a capital sum of at least 250 crores and out of that 100 crores, viz., ten times of the annual purchase of the landlords would be adequate to meet their demands. With the rest of the money, what prospects would open out for thoroughly re-organizing the economic life of the province, and placing its industry and agriculture upon a sound and profitable basis. That, Sir, is the proper way of dealing with the problems of rural indebtedness, for unless we improve the economic status of the peasant, what good will Debt Conciliation Boards, or even any number of officers trained in Denmark or any other country do?

One word more, Sir, and I have done. There is a proposal to establish a Revenue or Rent Commission with an Englishman as Chairman. This is a proposal which we oppose with all the vehemence we can, for what can an Englishman know about the intricacies of the land laws of Bengal? How can he learn of the many ways that they infringe upon our lives? The whole proposal is a sheer waste of public money, for we know that we want to utilize the total rent paid by the tenantry for the use of the tenants themselves, and for the purpose, buy out if necessary, the interest of the landlords. Sir, I therefore submit that the budget proposals are inadequate, and cannot bring about that improvement of the economic life of the province which we all desire.

Mr. AFTAB ALI: On a point of privilege, Sir, I submit that Labour is a minority in this House, and so I should be grateful if you could allow either me or some other Labour member to speak on the Budget to-night.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do recognize your group as minority in this House.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should only like to say a few words about the Budget by way of general observations. But I must say at once that a supporter of the Government though I am, I can scarcely persuade myself to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his achievements. The Budget, Sir, seems to me—I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will forgive me for the expression—mediocre in conception. One looks in vain through the whole picture for a bold conception or a master stroke. The whole thing is at best

an exhibit of laboured imperfection. Hundred and one problems have been touched, but only on the fringe.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister is very solicitous about resurrecting the average man, i.e., the cultivator, whom he rightly thinks to be the real backbone of whatever may be built up in Bengal. For bettering that human material he thinks it essentially necessary principally to introduce free and compulsory primary education, institutions for debt settlements, improvement of rural credit, and the stimulation of the prices of agricultural produce of the country.

None of these problems has been approached with an eye to solution and thoroughness. Sir, there are some people who do not want primary education by resort to taxation but we on this side of the House who run the Government have unmistakably more than once given out that we want primary education immediately even by resorting to taxation and we have reason to believe that the country backs us in our opinion. Under such circumstances why this policy of piecemeal introduction? Why should not the Government concentrate upon this one thing above any other? Why not introduce primary education immediately in all districts by taxation and if necessary have courage enough to face the electorate upon this issue. Instead of that the Government have done things which indicate only too much caution and slow speed. Circumspection is no doubt necessary, but I venture to suggest to the Hon'ble Minister that some amount of tenacity and dash is also essential in such matters.

It is an admitted fact at least amongst us on this side of the House that if one thing is more necessary than another it is this free primary education. Why then from out of one crore and 13 lakhs of rupees available for additional expenditure provide only 5 lakhs for this all important matter? Why wait for the opinion of school boards and M. L. A.s? Indeed we are at a loss to understand what the policy of the Government is in this all important matter.

With regard to improvement of Rural Credit, Debt Conciliation and stimulation of prices of agricultural produces, I see, Sir, that most of the money provided will go to meet the expenses of the departments and salaries. Where will the capital come from with which to give loans? Where is the direct benefit which the agriculturists will get?

Sir, a provision of 1 lakh of rupees has been made in the Budget for the construction of a building to house the Upper Chamber. Amongst many undesirable things in the new constitution this Upper Chamber has been thrust upon us against our will. As a true member of the Muslim League I like to see the end of everything that stands in the way of a full-fledged democracy in the near future. So it is from my point of view at least not only a sheer waste of money to build a

house at an ultimate cost of 15 lakhs but a definite disservice to democracy.

Only a few words about retrenchment and I will finish. Sir, we see the Darjeeling exodus is there, the posts of Commissioners which by consensus of opinion have been thought superfluous are there, the high and fat salaries which it is definitely within the competence of the Government to cut down are there, but the Hon'ble Finance Minister finds no scope for retrenchment. Nay, even he finds no urgent necessity for that for in his opinion the country has settled down to normality. Indeed, if one half meal throughout the day and want of clothes to hide nakedness and to protect oneself against nature is the sign of normality we are in nomal times. But I forgot that to a Finance Minister the only barometer is the condition of the provincial revenue. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has thought fit to crown, all he said about retrenchment, by a sermon which reminds me of one thing in the Sermon on the Mount. There the Lord Christ said amongst other things that "He has come not to destroy what his predecessors did and said but He has come to fulfil them". Sir, I find the same desire in our Hon'ble Finance Minister. He is there, if not for any other thing, for fulfilling his irresponsible predecessors.

Lastly, I would like to say that, supporters though we are of Government, though it is not possible for us to vote for any cut motion, we would only like to see that the Hon'ble Finance Minister accepts more than one of our economy cuts and save a substantial sum to be employed afterwards for activities calculated to resurrect the average man.

Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the lucid exposition of the Budget intricacies in his Budget speech. I congratulate him on his clear appreciation and comprehension of the exigencies of this moment, and on his attempt to frame his Budget on nation-building requirements.

Sir, on the last occasion as well as this occasion, he has said that the first requirement of nation-building is the human back-ground. That is the first condition on which national regeneration and construction should be built up. It has not been denied up till now by anybody that the first requisite for that purpose is the introduction of free and compulsory primary education, and it should be done without taxation. At the last Budget Session, on the cut motion of Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, speaker after speaker tried to impress on the Cabinet the necessity for introducing free and compulsory primary education. Mr. Wordsworth, of the European Group differed a little. He said

that the present scheme is impracticable and inefficient. He proposed that a Committee should be formed consisting of experts to examine the scheme further and as Bengal's finance did not permit the introduction of free and compulsory primary education without taxation throughout the whole province all at once, a scheme should be prepared so that Bengal's villages may be equipped with efficient primary schools. Sir, we are disappointed that neither of these suggestions has been taken into consideration seriously by the Cabinet. We find on the other hand that the Cabinet is determined to attack one district after another by telling them to introduce in their own districts free and compulsory primary education and that by imposing taxation, so that in the coming Budget Session, we shall have no opportunities to discuss about the matter of free and compulsory primary education without taxation any more. But, Sir, is that justice done towards the agriculturists, towards the half-fed and the half-clothed tillers of the soil? They are already paying a large amount by way of rent and Union Boards cess and this fresh taxation on primary education is being imposed upon them against their will. I do not know how the country will appreciate this. I do not know how the country will appreciate this move on the part of the Cabinet. At any rate, an optimist as I am, I give my benediction to this scheme so that the scheme, the project of educating every cultivator, every tiller of the soil, of the province may be fulfilled in the near future.

Next to education what is needed most is economic regeneration. For that purpose what is wanted first is to liquidate the debts of the agriculturists and secondly to launch such schemes which will enable the agriculturists to increase their income. As regards the first step, the Cabinet has provided Rs. 24½ lakhs for opening 2,000 more Debt Conciliation Boards. In my humble opinion the Boards that have been constituted are sufficient. If there is any necessity in any particular area for constituting Debt Conciliation Boards, it may be established but for that in my opinion half the amount would have been sufficient. What is more needed is rural credit and not debt conciliation board. For that purpose what does the Ministry suggest?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Nothing.

Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: We find only Rs. 2½ lakhs has been provided to invigorate the co-operative movement.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Only to reorganise the administrative department.

Mr. UPENDRA NATH BARMAN: So far as I understand this money will be spent to make the agriculturists energetic enough to form co-operative societies in the rural areas to meet their necessary requirements as regards money, but from the poor idea that I have got about these rural societies up till now I am of opinion that these societies are of no good to the villagers. A few societies that have been set up are not really co-operative societies, but co-operative banks. The village middle man when he becomes indebted, he collects some associates, applies to the Central Banks, takes money and squanders it thus bringing insult not only to himself but also to his associates. Up till now the cultivators have not come forward to form such societies in large numbers, and I think the Ministry has not taken adequate steps in this direction.

Next as regards improvement of financial condition of the agriculturists, who for more than six months a year remain idle because of the agricultural recess, Government ought to encourage handicrafts and such other things, so that the agriculturists may utilise the time of recess in some way or other for their benefit. Of course that cannot be done in a day but a definite scheme can be formulated by experts and adequately financed by the Cabinet.

As regards jute propaganda, it has already become unsuccessful as I can say from my poor knowledge of it and a further attempt of it will bring the same result. We depend on foreign markets for the utilisation of our jute products and I suggest that if Government do utilise jute products for their own use rather than foreign products, it would give an incentive to that industry. Unless we can consume a great portion of the jute within the province and set examples to our neighbouring provinces, I do not think that this problem can be solved.

Last of all I wish to say a word or two as regards middle class unemployment. At the outset I would say that the move made by the Ministry in this direction is no doubt good, although the members of this House have criticised it as emitting an unpleasant odour in trying to make additional posts for unemployed youths. The Ministry is going to spend money, more money, that is not really required for the administration of the province. Certainly the revenue of Bengal mainly comes from these agriculturists and as soon as the requirements of services are met adequately there is undoubtedly a waste of money if posts are created only for the sake of providing unemployed youths. Public coffer is certainly a public trust and the Ministry cannot betray that trust. The Ministry would do well in my opinion if they engage these unemployed youths in several other workshop, so that they may not think of hunting after service as their only work. The University and the secondary schools are producing lots of educated youths day after day and it will be unjust and unfair to ask the Ministry to provide for them all and blame them if they do not, because in my opinion they are arguing in a vicious circle.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think we should adjourn. I propose to sit again at 7-20. The light will be switched off at 6-55 and I think the members will stay out for the time being.

(The House was then adjourned for half an hour.)

(After adjournment.)

Maulana Md. ABDUL AZIZ: বাজেট সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা করবার পূর্বে আমি আমাদের মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে আমার অন্তরের অন্তঃস্থল হ'তে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কোরছি। বাজেটে একটা পর্দ্দা কলেজের ব্যবস্থা আছে। যে সময় বাংলার বুক হ'তে পর্দ্দা সরিয়ে দেবার জন্য কল্পনা জল্পনা চোল্‌ছে ঠিক সেই সময় তিনি যে একটা পর্দ্দা কলেজ কলিকাতা নগরীর বুকে সৃষ্টি করবার জন্য ব্যয় দেখিয়েছেন তার জন্য বাস্তবিকই আমি অত্যন্ত সুখী হয়েছি এবং তাঁকে আমার অন্তরের অন্তঃস্থল হ'তে ধন্যবাদ না দিয়ে থাক্‌তে পারছিনে।

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. The House surely knows that it is the accepted convention in all parliamentary bodies that when a member makes his maiden speech he is given uninterrupted attention. So it is hoped that the speaker will be allowed to proceed without interruption.

Maulana Md. ABDUL AZIZ: আমার বন্ধুবান্ধবদের মধ্যে কেউ ২ বোলেছেন যে, এই পর্দ্দা বড় অশোভনীয়, আজকালকার অভিধানে এরকম একটা শব্দ থাকা অত্যন্ত অন্যায় আমি Muslim view থেকে বোলছি তা নয়। এখানে যদি পর্দ্দা কলেজের মানে এই হয়, যে, এখানে মুসলমান মেয়েরাই শিক্ষা পাবে, তাহলে আমার মতে Muslim Girls' Purdah College নাম হওয়া উচিত। যারা পর্দ্দার কোন ধার ধারে না তারা যেখানে হোক যাক। কিন্তু বাংলার বুকে এক হাজার লোকের মধ্যে ৯৯৯ জনই পর্দ্দা চায়। সেইজন্য আমার মনে হয় Purdah System কে সমূলে উৎপাটন কোরতে আরো বহু দিনের আবশ্যক হবে। সেইজন্য আমি মুসলমান হিসেবে একে ষোল আনা support কোরছি। তবে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে স্মরণ করিয়ে দিচ্ছি—আমরা যে primary শিক্ষা free এবং compulsory হতে চাইছি সে বিষয়ে যেন তাঁর দৃষ্টি থাকে। সেখানে বালকবালিকাদের আলাদা রেখে যাতে লেখাপড়া শেখানো যায় সেইজন্য গ্রামে ২ যেন পর্দ্দা স্কুল হয়। বাজেটের মধ্যে Upper Chamber এর জন্য ১৫ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় দেখানো হয়েছে, আমি আমার personal মত বোলতে পারি যে আমি ওটা চাইনে, এবং আমার বোধ হয় আমাদের মেম্বরদের মধ্যেও অনেকে ওটা চান না। যে দেশের মধ্যে এত অভাব অভিযোগ যে দেশে টাকা পয়সা নাই বোলে free primary school স্থাপন কোরতে পারছি না, যে দেশে টাকা পয়সা নাই বোলে গ্রামের মধ্যে বহুস্থলে এমন জায়গা রয়েছে, যেখানে লোকে অসুখ হ'লে এক ফোঁটা ওষুধ খেতে পায় না, সেখানে এমন একটা বিরাট ব্যয় ডেকে আনা আমি সঙ্গত মনে করি না। এখন আমাদের যে ভাবে চোলেছে সেই ভাবেই উত্তর Chamber এর কাজ চোলতে পারে। আমাদের কয়েক জন লোকের সুখের জন্য চিন্তা না কোরে mass এর সুখের জন্য চিন্তা করা উচিত। Youth welfare এর জন্য যে ২৷৷৹ লক্ষ টাকা খরচের যে ব্যবস্থা সেটা কি আমি বুঝতে পারছিনে। বর্ত্তমান সময়ে যা কিছু খেলাধূলা আছে তাতেই চলে। তাছাড়া আমাদের দেশীয় পুরাণ খেলাগুলি দেশে ফিরিয়ে আনলে মন্দ হয় না। আমার বিশ্বাস, এ কাজে এতটাকা খরচ না কোরে এই টাকা-গুলি আমাদের দরিদ্রের শিক্ষার জন্য কিম্বা আমাদের ঔষধপত্র ব্যবহারের জন্য ব্যবস্থা কোরলে সুবিধা হয়।

তারপরে বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে মাদ্রাসা সম্বন্ধেও টাকা পয়সার বরাদ্দ আছে। কিন্তু আমাদের old school মাদ্রাসা সম্বন্ধে কিছুই শোনা যাচ্ছে না। তাদের সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কি কিছু বিবেচনা কোরছেন না? যদি তাই হয় তাহলে যে ৭০ হাজার টাকা তাঁদের বাজেটে আছে তাহতে তাদের জন্য কিছু থাকবে, এই আমি আশা করি।

তারপরে Union Board হাঁসপাতাল সম্বন্ধে ১০ হাজার টাকা যে বরাদ্দ হয়েছে—এটা খুব কম। আমাদের জন্ম পাড়াগাঁয়ে, আমরা জানি পাড়াগাঁয়ের লোকের কি অভাব আমাদের Minister মহাশয়েরও জন্ম পাড়াগাঁয়ে, তিনিও বুঝতে পারেন আমাদের কি অভাব। আমাদের দেশে একটা হাঁসপাতাল আছে সেটা হোমিওপ্যাথিক। মাত্র ৪ পয়সা সেখানে সেই ৪ পয়সা মাত্র চাঁদা দিয়েও অনেকেই সেখানে যেতে পারে না। একবার একজন লোকের বাড়ীতে অসুখ হওয়ায় সে তার বাড়ীর একটা আনারস চার পয়সায় বিক্রয় কোরে তবে হাঁসপাতালের চার পয়সা যোগাড় কোরে সেখানে যেতে পেরেছিল। এমন অবস্থা যে দেশের মধ্যে আছে সেই দেশের অন্যান প্রত্যেক union এ একটা কোরে Charitable dispensary থাকা উচিত। সেই জন্য এ সম্বন্ধে যে টাকা পয়সা দেওয়া হোয়েছে সেটা খুবই কম।

তারপরে দেখতে পাচ্ছি Co-operative এর জন্য আরো ২॥৹ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় দেখানো হয়েছে। দেশের লোক যদি বাঘের মতন, সিংহের মতন ভয় করে কোন জিনিষকে সেটা হলো দুটো জিনিষ—একটা হচ্ছে থাসমহল আর কোর্ট অব ওয়ার্ডের সার্টিফিকেট, আর একটা হচ্ছে এই Co-operative এর লোক। তাদের তারা মনে করে "আজরাইল," তারা টাকা পয়সা আদায় করবার জন্য লোকগুলিকে সূর্য্যের দিকে তাকিয়ে রাখে, জলে ডুবিয়ে রাখে—এই সব তাদের কীর্ত্তি। কাজেই এ বিভাগ আমি একেবারেই পছন্দ করি না। Co-operative Department উঠিয়ে দেওয়া হোক। একটা কাজের জন্য আমি প্রশংসা না কোরে পারছিনে, primary শিক্ষকদের শেখানোর জন্য যে টাকা মঞ্জুর মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কোরেছেন সেটা খুব প্রশংসনীয়। কিন্তু আবার যে দুজন লোককে বিদেশে পাঠাবার জন্য প্রস্তাব আছে সেটা আমি মোটেই ভালো মনে করি না এই কথা বলেই আমি বোসতে চাই।

Mr. SATYA PRIYA BANERJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words on the general discussion of the budget which was presented to us in this House by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister the other day. I frankly confess, I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on his performance. For, he has failed, ignominiously failed, to help the average man for whom he has shown so much concern, which, at last, turned out to be merely lipdeep sympathy, and for whose solicitude he has spent so many anxious but, in the end, fruitless hours in the preparation of this budget.

Sir, the fundamental principle that distinguishes the budget of the State from that of the individual is, that the individual first looks to his income and then to his expenditure, whereas the State first of all looks to its expenditure and then to meet that it has first of all to take into consideration the ordinary sources of revenue and if that fails to meet the demands of expenditure, it has to take recourse either to retrenchment or to fresh taxes or to the raising of loans. Judged by this standard, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has been weighed in the balance and has been found wanting. Regarding retrenchment, Sir, he has presented us with a very notable discovery, namely, constructive retrenchment and as a result of that we have been saddled with an additional burden of Rs. 1,12,000. We are reminded that we are at

the beginning of our programme of national reconstruction, and if we have to go ahead, fresh sources of revenue have got to be tapped, and we are further assured that under the new scheme of taxation, taxes will be levied only upon those whose shoulders are broad enough to bear the burden thereof. Let me ask the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, in all humility, when is he going to initiate those new taxes, taxes which will not fall upon the poor, taxes which will not be oppressive to the poor, taxes which will not exploit the poor but taxes which will fall as a burden only on the rich.

The average man, Sir, suffers under a crushing burden of his debt, the average man's life is not sweetened by education, the average man's income is not sufficient to enable him to live. Let us from the budget examine what the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has done on each of these counts. As regards debts, Sir, Debt Conciliation Boards have been established in every district and for that a sum of more than 24½ lakhs of rupees has been provided. Side by side with that a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs has been provided for the reorganisation of the co-operative credit movement. Sir, when I reflect upon the vastness of magnitude of rural indebtedness of Bengal, which is no less than 100 crores of rupees and when I contemplate that only 4 per cent. of the rural population has been touched by the co-operative credit movement, I must say that the provision has been extremely disappointing and utterly inadequate. It is only a drop in the ocean. There has been only tinkering with the problem and no tackling it with a view to find out a solution. May I suggest to him that the Debt Conciliation Boards be abolished and a moratorium be declared in its stead, and money so released from the Debt Conciliation Boards be utilised for further expansion of co-operative credit societies?

Let me then turn to education. What has been done regarding this subject?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Moratorium for how many years?

Mr. SATYA PRIYA BANERJI: At least 10 years.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why not learn from Madras?

Mr. SPEAKER: My difficulty has been that there are some who will never learn. (Laughter.)

Mr. SATYA PRIYA BANERJI: We have got to educate the man behind the plough in the field, we have got to educate the man behind the machine in the factory and the workshop, but what has been done? Nothing has been done to provide education for the adult population of the Province, although the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in his budget speech which he delivered in July last remarked that while a terrible mass of illiteracy, which stands as a standing reproach to our national self-esteem, has got to be liquidated, there remain a prodigious mass of ignorance and many-sided backwardness in the adult population of to-day which has also to be removed. Nor has education been made free and compulsory for children of school-going age, because wherever primary education has been introduced a cess has been imposed as in Mymensingh, and therefore what has been introduced is not free; and compulsion has not been introduced anywhere. Sir, if I remember aright the speech delivered by Viscount Grey of Fallodon in 1923 where, after referring to the dangers to which democratic representative Governments are exposed, he said that remedy lies only in education, education not primary, not secondary, but adult education, and this was said of a country which had the best system of elementary and secondary education. If that was true of England how much more is it true here where there is neither universal elementary education nor compulsory. The Government of Bombay have set up a Committee of 16 for the purpose of advising the Government on adult education, and the Government of United Provinces have trained 1,200 preachers with missionary zeal who have set out in the villages to revivify and revitalise the village folk, and teach them lessons of self-help in education, sanitation and every other subject useful to them. May we not ask the Government to follow their example? We are told by Mr. B. C. Mookerjee, Secretary of Adult Education Society, that the Government of Bengal set up a Committee of 4 about a year ago to facilitate spread of adult education in the villages. But nowhere do we find in the budget a single pice provided for this purpose.

The other day my esteemed colleague Mr. D. P. Khaitan pointed to the lump sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs for youth welfare work, and in that connection he referred to the youth movements of Germany and Italy. Youth movements, Sir, are very different from youth welfare work. They are as poles asunder. Youth movement is a movement for the youth, by the youth and of the youth, whereas youth welfare work is initiated by those that are against youth movement. If I have read aright the history of youth movements of the countries that I had the occasion to visit, I will say this that precisely at a time when youth movements make a great headway, precisely at a time when they assume such a gigantic proportion as to threaten the powers that be, they get the fossilised and reactionary elders to initiate, or they themselves ini-

tiate, youth welfare work. Is it then to fortify their own position, their own future that they are trying to capture the imagination of the youth? But, Sir, if per chance they fail in that, we find the long arm of the guardian angel of law and order with an increased grant for the police by more than one lakh out of which thirty-five thousand has been set apart for secret service to suppress the youth.

Let us then proceed to consider what has been done for the increment of income of the average man. The income of the average man is as well the cause as also the effect of the income of the nation, and the income of the nation depends upon the productivity of its agriculture and industries. The grant that has been given under the head of "Agriculture" is only sixteen lakhs twenty-seven thousand. In a country where the population is about five crores, of which 85 per cent. are agriculturists, if we work out the sum it will be a little more than two pice per head of population of the agriculturists. Is that anything that will go to increase the income of the agriculturist? Is it not a sham, a mockery and a huge farce? Does the Hon'ble the Finance Minister want us to believe that by so doing he will be doing any benefit to the agriculturists? He must be living in a Fool's Paradise, if I may use that expression, if he wants us, and through us the country at large, to believe that.

In conclusion, Sir, I cannot resist the temptation of saying a few words on his brilliant discourse on inequitable distribution of wealth. He has said and very rightly said that as long as wealth leads to split up society into invidious classes, revolt is not only logical but inevitable. I will only fill up the gap by saying that if there is to be no conflict of classes there will have to be a society in which all the productive forces will be controlled by the society, in which there will be no private property in production, distribution and exchange in which there will be no scope for exploitation, in which there will be no scope of accumulation for further exploitation, in which profitability will no longer be the motive force of production, in which each will work according to his capacity and get according to his needs.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Sir, Mr. R. M. Sassoon remarked that the Congress Party here do not generally come forward with any constructive programme, and give any concrete suggestion. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister may be the chief editor of his budget, but he is not the sole author. In the budget we find the hand of his other hon'ble colleagues, but unfortunately looking at the Treasury Bench

I find that as many as 7 out of 11 Ministers receiving a salary of Rs. 2,500 a month are absent. (Hear, hear from Congress Benches.) Perhaps, they are away from here to be punctually at their dinner table after a merry stroll alongside the river Ganges. If they are absent whom we can give suggestion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Eight are absent, not 7.

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: However, Sir, I offer my felicitations and congratulations to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for his very admirable budget speech and the philosophy that he has preached therein. I have always been a very staunch supporter of the present Government on the floor of this august Assembly, but I must confess that I have all along entertained grave doubts and fears as to the capability of this Ministry composed of hetrogenous elements and interests to serve the people of Bengal as against the interests of very powerful classes and groups whose co-operation and favours every man, every reasonable man of the world, generally seeks. I am, however, not free from these doubts and fears, but I propose to impose restraint on myself and to have patience and to watch patiently the gradual developments of events till my patience is completely exhausted. I am struggling within myself to believe that that unfortunate moment will never come. I am extremely pleased to find that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and his colleagues have, perhaps, due to their very close association with their party men realised that the salvation of the present Ministry lies in their sincere attempts to do some substantial work for the people of Bengal. Having no reason to credit the present Ministry at the present stage with falsehood and dishonesty, I am inclined to take a charitable view of the budget speech and the various expressions of noble sentiments and pious wishes expressed therein. Born and brought up in a Muslim family as I am, I am with certain modifications a socialist and if communism did not imply non-belief in God and prophets, I would have styled myself as a communist. I, therefore, welcome the official acceptance and recognition of the principle that the community must be placed before the individual, masses before the classes. I pray that the Almighty God may give inspiration and strength to the present Ministry to bear with patience and industry, the pains and sacrifices that must confront them when they seriously move to do anything for the people of Bengal. I say when they seriously move to do anything for the upliftment of the people of Bengal, because I am not yet convinced that they have as yet taken any serious move in that direction. The Great World War of 1914 has very conclusively proved and the threatening war clouds of these days very clearly indicate that there is something rotten at the

base and bottom of our present civilization. A careful study and analysis of the causes that led to the war of 1914 and may possibly lead to another war in the near future very forcibly suggest that there is absolute necessity of destroying the entire superstructure of modern society. A new and a happier society where the Hon'ble the Finance Minister's average men can thrive and prosper can arise only out of the debris of our cherished ideals of individual accumulation of wealth, ownership of property, possession of gilt-edged securities and large cash balances in the banks. I think the Honble the Finance Minister is perfectly consistent with his policy and philosophy preached in his budget speech when he says that as a first step towards doing any good to the average man, it is absolutely necessary to take resort to fresh taxation and I am glad that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and his colleagues have realised that in any new scheme of taxation they will be guided by the consideration that the tax will be levied on those who can bear the burden most. During cut motion discussions I would get ample time and opportunity to discuss the budget figures in details; at the present moment I would restrict myself to making a few general and broad observations on the budget. During the last year's discussion I remarked that if the manner of distribution of money under various heads of expenditure did stand as it was, then the people of Bengal would not get the full value of the money, and I still entertain the same grievance. In my opinion, if the present distribution of the money under so many heads is allowed to stand as it is, then the people of Bengal will not get the full value of the money. A great expert in matters connected with finance as the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is reputed to be, I need hardly remind him that a lump sum of 1 crore of rupees is of infinitely greater value than 1 crore scattered pieces of silver coins. I think the Hon'ble the Finance Minister would have been better advised to restrict himself to one or two items which ought to engage his immediate and urgent attention instead of placing his hands on all the departments with the small resources in his hands. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister is always fortunate in earning money and since he assumed the office of the Finance Minister of the Government of Bengal, whatever may be the reasons, unexpected money has been coming to the coffers of the Government of Bengal. This year too the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has been fortunate enough to get an increased revenue of over a crore from unexpected quarters, and he has in his own way distributed the money to the various nation-building departments. Here, Sir, in Bengal the peasant for whom the Hon'ble the Finance Minister seems to be very much concerned, is born in debts, lives in debts and dies in debts. And, Sir, I am surprised to find that the problem of rural indebtedness, the problem of all problems before us, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has alloted only a sum of rupees two lakhs and fifty thousand, and out of this two lakhs and fifty thousands two officers of the Co-operative Department will be sent to Denmark. I believe these

two fortunate officers for their so-called training and then after having got the training, for their subsequent planning, will consume nearly fifty thousand (hear, hear). If I am permitted to induldge in a little bit of humor when the Hon'ble Minister has given me a catch word, I may say that it shows that there is something rotten in the state of Denmark. We very much expected that after their extensive tour round the districts in Bengal at a considerable cost, the Hon'ble Ministers having first-hand experience of the peasants of Bengal will provide adequate amounts for financing short period loans without or with nominal interest to the peasants of Bengal during their cultivation seasons, so that they may not have to incur fresh debts for carrying on their cultivation, the only source of their living. Now, Sir, we find that of all departments, Irrigation, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture, Co-operative, Rural Indebtedness, these few touch the Hon'ble the Finance Minister's average man, the man behind the plough the cultivator. The total amount allotted to these departments comes up to a little over fifty-one lakhs. This entire money as it is allotted does not go to help the poor cultivators. Even if to console ourselves, we assume that this money will be utilized by him, we find that this is only fifty per cent. of the total increase in revenue of one crore and twenty-three thousand. We expected that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will utilize every pie that he could get for the amelioration of the condition of his average man. Sir, we find that in spite of the very excellent budget speech, things like secondary education, middle class unemployment, town and city hospitals, universities and colleges and such other things which exclusively concern the classes, middle or upper is uppermost in the mind of the present Ministry. Sir, we ask the Hon'ble the Finance Minister as his other colleagues are absent to convey this to them.

Mr. SHAH ABDUR RAUF: On a point of order, Sir. Will the hon'ble member be permitted to have private talks in the budget discussion.

Maulvi ABDUL HASHIM: I would request the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and his hon'ble colleagues to be a little more careful and responsible in making high statements. Sir, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq in course of one of his speeches in Berhampore addressing six or seven thousand of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister's average men who collected around him, said, "Sir John Anderson hated me like anything, and I was his enemy. He did not like the idea that I should come within a hundred yards of the Government House, but with your support I now occupy the present position and Sir John Anderson is now my greatest friend and in the

Cabinet Meeting he sits next to myself". He said: "I do not care to know who the Governor or the Viceroy is, the Crown that I wear is made of the dust of your feet." Here we find the real Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul Huq, who is the Prime Minister of Bengal, and it is for this Fazl-ul Huq that we are supporting this Government. I hope and pray that the other colleagues of Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq will not lead him astray, but wil help him to go his own way—the way which he indicated in his Berhampore speech and the way the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech says is theirs too.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Pray to God!

Mr. AFTAB ALI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I speak on the Budget before us, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for not issuing to us any fresh warning as he did on the last occasion. I presume, Sir, that better sense has prevailed this time so far issuing of such "Warning" is concerned and I only wish that it equally prevailed upon the distribution and allocation of funds in the present Budget, too. Sir, if I started discussing and looking upon this Budget from the view point of the working class or from the view point of the interests I represent, I am sure that I would be accused of advocating class struggle and class trife. Yet, Sir, I frankly contend and I am sure every member of this house and every honest man will agree with me when I say that the Budget before us is nothing but a complete product of class interest based on pure class struggle and class domination. We find that funds have been provided for education on communal (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: And sectional) and sectional—I am being interrupted, Sir, (Laughter) and other lines the boys and girls of the propertied classes, but, Sir, nowhere in this Budget you will find any money provided for the education of the children of the labouring classes or for any other purpose except that petty sum of Rs. 20,000 standing in the name of "Welfare". Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has said a lot about unemployment amongst the educated middle classes as if there were no unemployment amongst the working classes: We have in Bengal nearly 15 lakhs of industrial workers, and the Government think that with this petty sum of Rs. 20,000 they will be able to cater for the well-being of nearly 15 lakhs of industrial workers. However, Sir, we never expected much from this Government knowing, as we do, how it is composed, and I have stood up not with a view to change the existing order of things. I know that they are determined to carry on things in their own way, but I should like to say in very plain words that we of the Labour side in this House at least we who represent the organised Labour movement entered this House with a view to see things changed,

adjustments made and justice done. It is well known, Sir, that Labour in India stood divided into two camps when the new constitution was in the making. We of the Federation side, declared to work it out and make the best use of it. But I confess, Sir, that if I had known in the year 1933 how things would take shape now, while I tendered evidence to the Joint Select Committee on behalf of the workers of this country and if I saw things then as I see them now I would have thought twice, perhaps more, if it was at all worthwhile for me to travel all the way from Geneva to London in the said connection. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Hear, hear.) The other camp of Labour openly expressed their distrust and kept themselves aloof. We of the Federation side believed that, by taking part in the working of the constitution, we would be able to get something for Labour at least for the organised Labour. But what we have got after all? We have here again before us, the same old Budget, the same old story and the same old treatment so far the Labour is concerned. The Government have money to educate the sons and the daughters of the propertied class; they have money even for building a college for about six girls who would perhaps shine more as ornaments in the society rather than to serve it but they would not provide a single pice for the education of the children of the working class or for any other beneficial purpose to the children of the working class. Yet, Sir, if we say that we stand for class interest we are at once accused of being nay, we are branded as communists, or whatever that suits the gentlemen in power to call us and put us in the wrong.

When this Government was constituted, the Indian Seamen's Union, of which I am the President, took the earliest opportunity to invite the members of the Cabinet with a view to acquainting them with grievances and needs of Labour. I wish, Sir, my Union had some way left to it to collect back the money spent for buying the flowers for the occasion. Honestly speaking, I feel, Sir, that we have not got anything even of a pice worth from the present Ministry or the Government. Yet, Sir, it is an irony of fate that two of the Ministers happened to be once connected with the Indian Seamen's Union and which connection helped them to gain popularity and to get into power. Perhaps, they have now forgotten the ladder by which they have risen. But I do not for one single minute hesitate to state in this House that the Labour Movement at least the Union I have just named will remember this long.

I will not, Sir, take more time of this House at this late hour, but before I sit down, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry to the reactionary labour policy which they are now following. We have not uptil now been able to understand what their real policy is. All that we have been able to find out is that their present policy is to break up trade unions and place obstacles in their path and help the

capitalists and the employers in kicking down the workers and their trade unions.

In the reception to which I have referred to before and in which certain members of the Cabinet were present, we clearly pointed out to them that the direct alternative to trade unionism was communism, and, I repeat, Sir, here again that if the gentlemen in power stand in the way of trade unionism, if they are thinking that by defeating trade unionism, they will be helping themselves or the class for which they work—I mean, the capitalist class—they are sadly mistaken. Because, by defeating trade unionism, by defeating the trade union movement, and by putting down the workers, they will not be able to keep themselves where they are; it will bring about, as it has done in other countries, the Revolution. Let the Government do what they think, but let them not forget that there is a bigger force to the people and the workers, i.e., the force of hunger. They are now neglecting and perhaps they will be able to neglect for sometime more, but in the long run, they will have to submit, as others have submitted in other countries, to the force of hunger. So, let them not forget this fact.

The Hon'ble Minister for Finance, in concluding his Budget statement has made a rather funny remark. He has asked us to join him in the "common cause of humanity". I wish, Sir, he had plainly asked us to join him in the "common cause of exploitation", and for that I would have again thanked him as I did at the outset for not repeating to us his warning of the last year.

Sir, this is all that I had to say and I thank you for giving me the time to speak as I thought that being the representative of a minority constituency, I might not have got the chance to speak on the Budget at all.

Mr. C. GRIFFITHS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the able way he has presented his budget for 1938-39 a deficit of 11 lakhs. Expenditure 13 crores 24 lakhs, receipts 13 crores 13 lakhs. It is a satisfactory Budget for the simple reason that the administrative services are able to carry on their good work especially in Agriculture, Education, Public Health and Civil Works.

But as the closing balance for 1937-38 stands at 1 crore 91 lakhs, an increase of 53 lakhs on the original closing balance, the deficit of 11 lakhs is met and still shows Rs. 42 lakhs in hand. It is therefore not a very satisfactory Budget if we are asked to renew 4 taxation measures which expire this year to secure 28 lakhs of rupees.

It is cruel to tax the poor for what is an absolute necessity. We should strongly oppose the Electricity Bill, unless a liberal concession

is made for the poor consumer. We suggest that 32 units cost Rs. 5 (a unit a day) be free of tax. This tax affects the majority of my community, the Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans.

As a member of a minority community, cut adrift from the European Group and placed in the General Constituency, where there is no unity at present, we are not weighty to carry any point, but nevertheless it is to be hoped that we will be allowed to express an opinion, when we desire to do so. Some believe that politics is power, not justice. But the words of Abraham Lincoln—"Let us have faith that right makes might and in that faith let us to the end do our duty as we understand it".

If we are to take the Hon'ble Finance Minister seriously for what he has said on page 36, paragraph 2, of his budget speech, regarding the proper distribution of wealth, then I suggest that Government control our main crop and industry jute.

The problems that sternly confront us are—

(1) the distress of the raiyats,

(2) primary education of the masses,

(3) employment of the educated middle classes, and

(4) protection of the minorities, their rights and vested interest.

These could be easily solved as I will explain.

The paramount importance of our jute industry can only be realised when we note that in 1931-32 it represented 56 per cent. of our export trade, and in 1928-29 it was as high as 64 per cent., and nearly reached 2 millions tons and valued at about 90 crores of rupees. In 1925 when prices were higher, it was over 96 crores. Statistics show that the average value from 1924-30 was 85 crores and from 1930-36—35 crores. The deficit of 50 crores was the cause of all our troubles. It was put down to trade depression.

The raiyat was forced to supply 2 maunds for the price of one, and yet had to pay the same Government rates. To bring down the cost of production, the services were Indianised. Cheap labour became the order of the day. The Anglo-Indian was sacrificed in the Railways, Telegraphs, and Customs, services that he had built up.

To further reduce the cost of production, the zemindar was next sacrificed, regardless of the fact that he helped the Government from 1793 and transformed Bengal from swamps and jungles to what it is to-day (Question). But Professor P. J. Thomas gave the lie to the trade depression theory, when he placed the following facts before the Indian Economic Conference: "Nor has export trade fallen in two separate words quantum. There has been a large increase in the export

of raw jute, raw cotton and oil seeds, which are the main stay of our commercial agriculture. The increase between the post-war period and 1936-37 was 50 per cent. in cotton, 67 per cent. in raw jute and 380 per cent. in ground nuts." The world's consumption of jute was, raw and manufactured, as follows:—

In 1924-30—1 million 647 thousand tons.

In 1930-36—1 million 376 thousand tons.

Surely this does not justify the enormous fall in value by 60 per cent. (63 and 57 per cent. respectively.)

The huge profits made by the jute mills during and immediately after the great war attracted fresh capital. What was the result? New mills sprang up all round and looms expanded from 40,000 in 1920 to over 60,000 in 1932.

Production outstripped consumption and a fierce price cutting competition was set up, ruining the province. Hours of work were reduced (6 days to 4). 15 per cent. of looms were sealed. There was discontent among the 300,000 workers and strikes followed. Therefore, Sir, may I ask if there was any justification for the Government to reduce wages and bring down the cost of production and to allow rival groups to fritter away our resources (300 crores) and bring misery and poverty to the people?

In the circumstances, the right thing was to place a tariff only on raw jute, or else order the extra looms to close down and to remove this menace.

However, Sir, I shall further explain the distress of the raiyats; the middlemen having to deal with the powerful mill-owners and jute shippers on the one hand found brains and capital, while on the other, there were the weak raiyats steeped in ignorance and poverty and who could not contest claims regarding weight and quality, found their prices further reduced.

Mill owners and jute shippers have their interest protected by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce who provide Licensed Measurers to weigh, and Tribunals of Arbitration to decide about the quality. But who is to watch the interest of the poor raiyat, if not the Government? The Bengal National Chamber of Commerce with reference to our hon'ble friend Mr. Biswas's Jute Bill said "The Committee concur with the view that the jute trade deserves to be given special attention by the Government". I would therefore suggest—Relief to the raiyats be given by the Ware Housing system, in all districts, and their crops be taken over; payments to be made by the Cash Deposit system being introduced on orders booked, and in advance. The lack of holding power and suitable marketing facilities would thus be overcome.

Primary education of the masses would be solved. The raiyat should pay a cess imposed for education on the sale of his jute. To-day's consumption is over the average (1924-36) so 1½ million tons of jute would be over 4 crores in maunds, taken at the market rate of Rs. 5 per maund and would yield the raiyat over 20 crores. Again by restricting his crop, when necessary, he could profitably grow something else.

Employment of the educated middle classes would also be solved, by establishing various services to safeguard the interest of the raiyat in fact both buyer and seller, such as Weights and Measures, Jute Inspectors, Press House Engineers, Ware House Managers, Insurance Agents, Store Keepers, Accountants and Bank Managers, etc. This would take up the cost of production to about 50 per cent., i.e., Rs. 7-8 per maund (a figure suggested by some in this House) to be paid to the raiyat but perhaps more in theory than practice. This gives Government about 10 crores for the project of employing the educated middle classes and should do away with all discontent and terrorism.

Last of all you protect another minority the pioneer European merchant. It was by his capital, his initiative and his management that the jute industry was built up. Is he to suffer the fate of the Anglo-Indian and the zemindar?

We have only to throw back our imagination across the century, to see how in 1829, according to a customs report, 18 tons of jute, valued only Rs. 620 were shipped, grown about 40 acres of land, then how in 1929 it reached the stupendous volume of nearly 2 million tons, valued at 90 crores and cultivated on about 4 million acres of land, if we were to reckon 2 acres to yield 1 ton of jute. Government by supplying a better plant in height and bulk replaced extensive cultivation by intensive cultivation, so the acreage to-day is reduced.

Here is what London ("Statesman" correspondent) has to say (29th January 1938): "The improvement in trade is badly required at all producing centres, and even though prices of jute goods were to advance to a considerable extent (which they are expected to do) this should in no way jeopardise the excellent demand which has come to stay for sometime yet.

Calcutta need not be afraid of competition from other producing centres, as the latter will be only too pleased to raise their prices in conjunction with those prevailing in Calcutta".

Finally, Sir, let us not be hoodwinked by the bogey of substitutes. The myth was exploded when prices ruled high in 1924—30 and shipments of grain were made in bulk. Nothing could replace jute in the open market.

Jute provides the cheapest wrapping and packing material in the world. Therefore, Sir, let us ralise our prices of raw jute judiciously by forming a scheme as outlined to help the raiyats, to help the middle classes and to help the merchants. Surely 1½ million tons of produce to-day should fetch at least 60 crores instead of only 38 crores? Cheap materials, and cheap labour will not bring cheap production. We need efficiency, up-to-date machinery and methods.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Thursday, the 24th February 1938, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 24th February 1938, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 207 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Jute Restriction Officers.

***89. Mr. S. A. SALIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many Jute Restriction Officers have been appointed this year for different districts; and

(*ii*) how many of them are (1) Muhammadans and (2) Scheduled Castes?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that almost all the agriculturists are Muhammadans and Scheduled Castes?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing more Jute Restriction Officers from members of the Muhammadan community and Scheduled Castes?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) (*i*) 31.

(*ii*) Muhammadans—19 and Scheduled Castes—1.

(*b*) The majority of agriculturists in this province are Muhammadans and Scheduled Castes.

(*c*) No.

Mr. PROMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why Government consider that no more Muhammadans and members

of the scheduled castes should be appointed for jute restriction propaganda and also why one person from the scheduled castes has been appointed?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Special instructions were issued by Government to the District Magistrates in jute-growing areas to take in a certain percentage of members of the scheduled castes and Musalmans, provided they had the requisite qualifications.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what those qualifications are, and also what is the average salary of these officers? Further, have those officers been appointed on a permanent basis?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice, Sir.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these appointments were advertised?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: No, they were not advertised.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Did the Hon'ble Minister ever consider the question of appointing members of the scheduled castes in sufficient number?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I have already stated that special instructions were issued to certain District Magistrates that members of the scheduled castes should be taken in. I might add that these instructions contained an order that 15 per cent. of the appointments should go to members of the scheduled castes.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: With regard to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have now realized that jute restriction propaganda has failed?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether among the 31 persons who have been appointed as jute restriction officers there are retired Government officers of extreme old age?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice, Sir.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the extent of jurisdiction of each of these officers?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are any restrictions to retired Government servants being appointed to these posts?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: No, Sir.

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Do Government propose to create such a restriction in view of the fact that retired Government servants are supposed to be ill-fitted for these posts on account of their age?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Retired Government servants who are physically unfit are not taken in.

Mr. KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why of the four jute restriction officers appointed in the district of Rangpur not one belongs to the scheduled castes? Further, why none from the district of Rangpur was taken in?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I have already stated that I have issued general instructions. I can, however, make an enquiry of the District Magistrate on the points raised by the member. It may be that no suitable person was available from the scheduled castes.

Mr. KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is of the opinion that in the district of Rangpur, which has a population of 26 lakhs, not a single member from the scheduled castes could be found who could be thought fit and proper for appointment?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: ৩১ জন কর্মচারীর মধ্যে কোন জেলা থেকে ক জনকে নেওয়া হয়েছে, নবাব সাহেব তা বলবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice, Sir.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these officers have been deputed to East Bengal?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Date of general election of the Kishoreganj Municipality.

*70. **Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the date of general election of the Kishoreganj Municipality;

(*b*) the date when the list of members to be appointed thereon reached the Local Self-Government Department;

(*c*) the reason for the delay in publishing their names in the Gazette; and

(*d*) whether the Government intend taking any steps against similar delay in future?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Nausher Ali): (*a*) 10th July 1937.

(*b*) 16th August, 1937.

(*c*) The matter was under correspondence between Government and the local officer.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any member of the scheduled castes has been appointed this year?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Babu Indu Bhusan Bhattacharya, Engineer, Midnapore.

*71. **Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHAWMIK:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Babu Indu Bhusan Bhattacharya, Engineer, District Board, Midnapore, was dismissed and is now reinstated with full arrear pay for dismissal period;

(*b*) what is the amount of pay during his dismissal period;

(*c*) whether another hand was substituted during his dismissal period and what is the amount of pay;

(*d*) what is the cause of dismissal and reinstatement; and

(*e*) who is responsible for the loss of District Board fund caused thereby?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Rs. 8,048-6-3.

(*c*) Yes—Rs. 6,518.

(*d*) and (*e*) The officer was dismissed on charges of inefficiency and neglect of duty by a competent authority and was reinstated by Government on appeal on the ground that the charges were not substantiated. No question of any responsibility for loss arises.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to his answers (*d*) and (*e*), as to who is the "competent authority"?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: The District Board of Midnapore.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the officer was suspended once and was reinstated?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Yes, he was dismissed and reinstated once.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is it a fact that he was dismissed for a second time?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Yes, he was dismissed subsequently.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is it a fact that the District Board did not consider the question that he was dismissed before?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that, in view of the fact that the charges were not substantiated, the dismissal order was unjust and improper?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that this Engineer was fined Rs. 100 during the chairmanship of Babu Kishoripati Roy of Midnapore?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I ask for notice, Sir.

*Deputy Official Assignee.

***72. Maulvi RAJIBUDDIN TARAFDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether there is any likelihood of the appointment of a Deputy Official Assignee?

(*b*) If so, when is the appointment to be made?

(*c*) Is he considering the desirability of appointing a Muhammadan in view of the fact that there is particularly no Muhammadan in that department?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Does not arise.

Debt Settlement Board for each union in Bengal.

***73. Mr. MD. BARAT ALI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that for insufficient number of Debt Settlement Boards in the Province many agriculturists are suffering?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of sanctioning a Debt Settlement Board for each union in Bengal?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): (*a*) I have no such information.

(*b*) I am willing to sanction establishment of Debt Settlement Boards for each union as and when recommendations are received from local officers.

Mr. PRAMATHA RANJAN THAKUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what circumstances the local officers recommend the formation of Debt Settlement Boards in each Union?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: The necessity of establishing Debt Settlement Boards arises only when recommendations are received from local officers.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Have the Government issued any order to the local officers as regards sending in recommendations about the establishment of Debt Settlement Boards?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: No orders are necessary. Instructions are there already, and whenever local officers feel the necessity, they send up the proposals.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that, in spite of the recommendations of the local officers and repeated demands of the people of the locality, Debt Settlement Boards have not yet been established in the Satkhira Subdivision?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: The hon'ble member is not quite correct, as some Boards have already been established, and to-day's Gazette shows that a Special Board has been established in that Subdivision.

Recommendations to invest ordinary Debt Settlement Boards with additional powers.

***74. Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state whether the Government issued instructions to the local authorities of Mymensingh for sending recommendations for investing ordinary Debt Settlement Boards with powers under sections 9(*2*), 13(*2*) 19(*b*), and 21 of the Agricultural Debtors Act?

(*b*) If so, what are the dates of the issue of such instruction and the designation of the officers to whom issued?

(*c*) Have the Government received any recommendation from the Debt Settlement Officers, Kishoreganj and Bajitpur, for investing ordinary Boards of the Kishoreganj subdivision with powers under sections 9(*2*), 13(*2*) and 19(*b*)?

(*d*) If so, what is the reason for delay in publication of Government decision on the Subdivisional Officer's recommendation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: (*a*) Local officers are not required to wait for instructions from Government before sending up recommendations to invest ordinary Boards with any of the special powers enumerated in section 7 of the Act, but in view of the

reports received of the difficulties that were being experienced, Collectors have been requested at different times to send recommendations for investing selected Boards with powers under sections 9(*2*) and 13(*2*). In the meantime all such recommendations received from Collectors, whether before or after the issue of such letters, have been accepted.

(*b*) With regard to powers under section 9(*2*), letters were issued on the 26th April 1937 and the 20th September 1937.

With regard to powers under section 13(*2*), letters were issued on the 22nd January 1938.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many ordinary boards have been invested with powers under section 9(*2*) and 13(*2*) in the district of Mymensingh?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I must ask for notice.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House to how many boards special powers enumerated in section 7 of the Act have been given?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I ask for notice

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the difficulties that are being experienced?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: The difficulties experienced in the localities were many and instructions were given to the Collector to act expeditiously.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether generally special powers under section 7 of the Act are not given to more than one board in each subdivision?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I am afraid, that is not quite correct.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the report of the difficulties experienced was received by Government from the Collector of Mymensingh?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I must ask for notice if I have to give the date.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state to whom these letters were addressed by the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: These letters were addressed to the Collector through the Commissioner.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the difficulties were with regard to the selection of the personnel of the board?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: The difficulties were experienced with regard to various matters including the one that has now been mentioned by my hon'ble friend.

Enhanced rents of tenants.

*75. **Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government are aware that in by far the majority of tenancies rents have been enhanced on the ground of rise in price of food crops, and that such enhanced rents are still subsisting in spite of a heavy fall in the price to the great hardship of the peasantry;

(*b*) whether there has been a single instance in Bengal where rent has been reduced by suit or amicably owing to such fall in price;

(*c*) whether the landlords were subjected to any extra revenue when they enhanced rents of tenants;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) is in the negative what is the difficulty in rescinding these enhancements and restoring the rents to their former amount; and

(*e*) whether Government are aware that there is strong public demand for such reduction of rent?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) In the majority of tenancies, rents have not been enhanced. Where they have been

enhanced under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act the commonest ground of enhancement has been rise in the average local prices of staple food crops. It is presumed that most of the enhanced rents still subsist.

(*b*) Cases of reduction have been numerous in Government estates, particularly in Chittagong, but seldom or never by suit.

(*c*) Yes, in resettlement of some temporarily settled estates, but not in permanently settled estates.

(*d*) Reduction of rent can be effected only by suit under section 38, or by operations under section 112, of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

(*e*) Yes, where rents are in fact excessively high.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that even in cases of tenancies which are too small for yielding any surplus produce to the cultivators, rents were enhanced?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The enhancement of rent are made according to certain criteria laid down in the Bengal Tenancy Act and it is not done according to the necessity or on the basis of the surplus which a tenant can dispose of.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: With reference to (*a*), is the Hon'ble Minister aware that after the enhancement the average price of staple food-crops has gone down everywhere?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: With reference to (*b*), is the Hon'ble Minister aware of a single case in which a private landlord has made any reduction in rent on account of fall in prices?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is impossible for Government to supply the information.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: With reference to (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government have issued any instruction to the Revenue authorities to reduce rent by operations under section 112 of the Act?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Not as yet.

Khan Bahadur JALALUDDIN AHMAD: With reference to (*b*), viz., cases of reduction have been numerous in Government estates, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is due to the revisional settlement or it is a case of reduction voluntarily allowed by the Collector?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It was a case of reduction at the instance of Government following revisional settlement in some cases.

Khan Bahadur JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was not due to the revisional settlement because of the high rents assessed by the last settlement?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Government found that the rate of rent was rather high and the tenants were experiencing hardship because of the fall in prices of food-crops; so Government took the initiative in bringing down the rent.

Khan Bahadur JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the rent was higher than in any other districts of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I would ask for notice.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not the policy of Government that whenever they find that tenants are being treated by the landlords unfairly Government will step in and adopt measures to relieve them?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is too general a question.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the fact that the tenants having got no relief with regard to the reduction of rent on account of the fall in prices of staple food-crops——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, Mr. Biswas, you are delivering a speech. I want to know what exactly is your question. My object is to help you. You are putting a question in a manner which it is difficult for any Minister to answer, because you are putting too many questions within one compass. I want to know within a short compass what you want to know.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are thinking of bringing up any measure to give relief to the tenants by reducing the enhanced rent on the ground of the fall in prices of staple food-crops?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government have already announced their policy in connection with the resolution that was moved on the floor of this House a few days ago.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when is the proposed committee going to sit?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The matter is under the consideration of the Government, but it is difficult to announce any particular date.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is the intention of the Government to invest the Revenue authorities with powers under section 112, if so, when?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I have already answered that question in reply to the resolution moved by the hon'ble member a few days ago. But as to the time when it will be introduced, it is very difficult to say: certain preliminaries have got to be gone through before Government can come to a final decision on the point.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state definitely what those preliminaries are which should be dealt with?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The preliminaries are many, and if my hon'ble friend will kindly consult the Bengal Tenancy Act as a lawyer, I am sure he will be able to understand more clearly and more quickly what those preliminaries are.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there has been any reduction in the enhanced rent after settlement in Midnapore Khas Mahal areas?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government have announced their policy with regard to the Khas Mahal areas in Midnapore. They do not propose to enforce the enhanced rate of rent in that district.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the proposed Committee's recommendation will be given effect to within the next ten years?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order: I am afraid you are supposing too much. I do sometimes allow these questions because it is difficult to stop the current of questions. Strictly speaking, you cannot be argumentative in your questions. You are perfectly entitled to ask for information, but are you not supposing that the Committee is sitting? I hope you will restrict yourself to the exact information you want.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government propose to take any immediate steps to reduce the rent of the raiyats having regard to the indefinite delay in giving effect to the recommendations of the Committee?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: First of all I would like to know which Committee?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Your proposed Committee.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: The Committee that you are going to set up to go into the question of reduction of rent?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Government do not propose to appoint a Committee to go into the question of reduction of rent. Government according to the terms of the resolution have agreed to set up a Committee for devising ways and means for reduction of rent.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether with reference to (*a*), in the years of depression just over the rent has been increased on the ground of rise in the average price of food-crop?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes: I have already answered that question.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has taken any step to select the members of that proposed Committee?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Not yet.

Mr. KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether under section 105 suits are still being decreed in the Rangpur district?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Section 105 is a judicial proceeding, as the hon'ble member being a lawyer knows very well. Government are helpless in this matter.

Damage to the agricultural crops of Noabad lands.

***76. Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware of the immense damages done to the agricultural crops of the Noabad lands situated in the sea side every year by attacks of the saline water of the sea;

(*b*) is it not a fact that due to want of protective embankments the saline water of the sea easily enters into the lands and destroys crops;

(*c*) do the Government realise revenue from the Noabad lands on the sea side where there is no protective Government embankments?

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of—

(*i*) constructing protective embankments or *bundhs* at Government cost, or

(*ii*) giving relief to the owners of the sea side lands by whole or partial remission of the revenue affected by the saline water?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) and (*b*) Government are aware that the protection afforded by the embankments is by no means complete and that each year some crops in such areas are damaged.

(*c*) Yes in some cases.

Many of the embankments are erected and maintained at Government expense: others are erected and maintained by *talukdars* and *jotedars* who have been given settlement of these lands at concessional rates on their undertaking to erect and maintain embankments at their own expense.

(*d*) (*i*) The question of repairs of old embankments and construction of further embankments receives the consideration of local officers every year and on their recommendations funds are allotted subject to budget limits.

(*ii*) The Collector gives such remissions every year.

Al-Haj Maulana Dr. SANAULLAH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that owing to breach of protective embankments in the villages of Sahaparidip and Sabrang situated in the district of Chittagong total failure of crops has resulted and the poor peasants are deserting those villages?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid a question like that cannot be answered. If every village in the Noabad Parganah is brought within one question, it is difficult for the Hon'ble Minister to answer.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that talukdars and jotedars in many cases do not fulfil their part of the duty?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is quite possible that in some cases they do not fulfil their duties.

Mr. BIRENDRA NATH MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether either the Government or the talukdars or jotedars are primarily responsible for keeping the embankments in order?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It depends on the terms of the lease. Where the land has been leased out subject to the condition that the talukdars and jotedars should maintain the embankments there the talukdars and jotedars are responsible and where the Government have khas land they are responsible for the embankment.

Population of the Kishoreganj Municipality.

*77. **Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total Hindu and Moslem population of the Kishoreganj Municipality, ward by ward;

(*b*) the total number of Hindu and Moslem voters, ward by ward;

(*c*) the total number of elected seats and the number of Moslems returned in the last election; and

(*d*) the reason for not reserving seats for the Moslems in the municipality?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) Total number of elected seats ... 12

Number of Muslims returned ... 2

(*d*) As the population figures for both Hindus and Muhammadans are almost equal, Government did not consider it necessary to reserve seats for any community.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) and (b) of Starred question No. 77.

(a) .. Ward.	Total population.	Remarks.
I	3,960	Of these 7,954 are Moslems and 7,467 Hindus and 16 others, separate figures ward by ward are not available.
II	2,106	
III	6,559	
IV	2,812	
	15,437	

.. Ward.		Hindu voters.	Muslim voters.	Total.
I	..	440	212	652
II	..	98	167	265
III	..	563	350	913
IV	..	175	138	313
		1,276	867	2,143

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*a*) the year to which these figures refer?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: The figure for population was taken from the last census.

Mr. MONOMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any member of the scheduled caste was elected during the last two years?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I am not definite, but perhaps not.

Khan Sahib Maulvi SYED MUHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government are considering the desirability of enforcing the principle of reservation there?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: No. Reservation is intended to protect the minorities. The Muslims form the majority there and I do not know how I am to reserve seats for them.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government think that the scheduled caste people there form a minority?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government contemplate nominating any member of the scheduled caste this year?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question does not arise.

Khan Sahib Maulvi SYED MUHAMMAD AFZAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government are considering the question of making provision for reservation this year?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what strength is considered in deciding whether seats should be reserved for any particular community?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: The law is clear. It is only population that is taken into consideration for reservation of seats.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government propose to revise the present system of wards in the Kishoreganj Municipality in view of the result of the last election?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I think the hon'ble member is thinking of redistribution of areas of the different wards, but I doubt if that would be any remedy where the majority of the population is Muslim.

Mr. ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are considering the desirability of doing away with this iniquitous system of reservation of seats in the municipal areas?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: In view of the answer to question (*b*), it is evident that—

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, what is evident is evident: You can only put your question. I am afraid I cannot allow you to go into a discussion on what conclusion you arrive at. Please put your question only without stating any conclusion.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: All right, Sir. My question is this: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, in view of the poor number of Mussalman voters in the municipality, ward by ward, he can change the present system of voting by wards so that the Muhammadan and Hindu population may be distributed in a better manner?

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: If the hon'ble member persists, I have got no objection to looking into the matter.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he will be prepared to introduce adult franchise in that municipality?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Selection grade posts in Civil Courts in Bengal.

***78. Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of clerks in the selection grade in the civil courts of the Province;

(*b*) the number of Muslims holding posts in the selection grade in those offices (to be shown separately, district by district); and

(*c*) the number of clerks enjoying extension of service in the various districts?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) 63.

(*b*) *Vide* statement laid on the table.

(*c*) 43, beyond 55 years of age; none beyond 60 years of age.

Statement referred to in clause (b) of starred question No. 78, showing Muslims holding selection grade posts in civil courts in various districts in Bengal.

Burdwan	... 2
Birbhum	... 1
Khulna	... 1
Mymensingh	... 1
Chittagong	... 1

Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that by compelling officers to retire on attaining 55 years of age, real retrenchment is effected?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state whether he will consider the desirability of fixing a proportion of these appointments for Muslims?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: These people are selected for the merit that they display in doing their work; not for seniority alone, but for meritorious work. Therefore I do not know how I can say that I will fix a percentage of appointments in such cases for members of this and that community.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Sir, we have not been able to hear the reply of the Hon'ble Minister; will he kindly repeat his answer?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Well, the answer is this: So far as these people who are in the selection grade at present are concerned, they have reached the selection grade by meritorious work and not through the medium of direct appointments, and if you ask me to fix a percentage of such appointments on considerations of sectional representation, I fear that difficulties may arise and administration may suffer.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state whether the word "efficiency" is not based on the notings of head clerks who are mostly Hindus?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many members of the scheduled castes are in the selection grade?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

I must also say that it is almost impossible to find out the real nature of supplementary questions if the volume of "supplementary" noise is as much as we have heard during the last few minutes.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state the reason of granting extensions to such a large number of officers—to as many as 43 out of 63?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: In the interest of public service.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that by granting extensions to 43 clerks he has not stopped the recruitment of 43 new hands in that department?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Yes. (Hear, hear.)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table.

Stoppage of grant to the Katsara Maktab.

22. Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the President, Amnan Union Board, in the Hooghly district, was ordered by the District Magistrate to stop the grant-in-aid of the Katsara Maktab so long as Maulvi Fazlur Rahman remained a teacher of the maktab;

(*b*) is it a fact that on some confidential report of the District Inspector of Schools, Hooghly, the stipends, both D. B. and Imperial, of the said Maulvi has been stopped by the District Board, Hooghly; and

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the reason for stoppage of the stipend is the political views of the Maulvi?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): In view of the political activities of Maulvi Fazlur Rahman, teacher of the Katsara Maktab in the district of Hooghly, as reported by the local Police and Educational Officers, the District Magistrate of Hooghly was of opinion that the Maulvi was not a fit person for employment on the staff of an educational institution and that no grants from Public Funds should be paid to the maktab till the Maulvi was replaced by another one. Accordingly the Chairman, District Board, Hooghly, and the President, Amnan Union Board, have withdrawn the grants from the maktab pending removal of Maulvi Fazlur Rahman therefrom.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to state the nature of the political activities of Maulvi Fazlur Rahman?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The matter is confidential and I am not prepared to state the nature of his political activities.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the said Fazlur Rahman has suspended his political activities and has changed his political creed? If so, is the Hon'ble the Chief Minister prepared to reconsider his decision and renew the grant-in-aid?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: If the hon'ble member is aware of so many things, then I do not see the necessity on his part of asking so many questions!

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Sir, my question was whether, in view of the fact that Maulvi Fazlur Rahman has changed his political creed and has suspended his political activities, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister is prepared to reconsider his decision.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is fortunate that I did not hear you when you put your question, for, otherwise, I would have disallowed it. (Laughter.)

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister be pleased to state what sort of political activity will enable a man to receive a Government grant and assistance?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Political activities which are not subversive of society.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether his activities were violent or non-violent, or whether they affected Government in any way?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: There are many cases in which it is difficult to distinguish between violence and non-violence: they glide into one another.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any specific charge was brought against the said Fazlur Rahman in any criminal court?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As a matter of fact no question arose of bringing him before any criminal court. Government were aware of certain activities of his which they considered should not be encouraged and therefore this order was passed.

Mr. NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি আমাদের জানাবেন মিঃ ফজলুল রহমান কি কখনো ডেটিনিউ হয়ে ছিলেন?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: আমার কোনো খবর নাই, বোলতে পারবো না।

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has got sufficient materials to produce the said Fazlur Rahman for trial in any open court.?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Water-hyacinth in Mymensingh district.

23. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he is aware of the havoc caused by water-hyacinth in the district of Mymensingh; and

(*ii*) that some attempt for its destruction was started by voluntary method by the District Magistrate and that attempt proved a failure for lack of sufficient official guidance?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what do the Government propose to do now in the matter?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) (*i*) Some damage is done to crops by water-hyacinth in the district.

(*ii*) The Subdivisional Officer, Kishoreganj, made an effort for destruction of the pest but landlords did not co-operate. There was no lack of official guidance.

(*b*) Action is being taken to enforce the Bengal Water-hyacinth Act in the district.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*ii*) the names of the landlords who did not co-operate?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I cannot give the names off-hand: I want notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is it a fact that Mr. Murshed, when he was the District Magistrate of Mymensingh, started the voluntary system of water-hyacinth destruction with the help of the Subdivisional Officer and the people, and he worked at this with great zeal?

And also whether it is a fact that this movement was stopped just before the elections and after the election it was not touched by any Government officer?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I am not aware, Sir.

Maulvi ABDUL BARI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, were taken by Government to persuade the landlords to co-operate in this matter?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: The reply is in answer (*b*).

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of co-operation expected from the landlord?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Advice to the executive officers.

Water-hyacinth in Khulna district.

24. Mr. NAGENDRA NATH SEN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether the Government are aware—

(*i*) that water-hyacinth (*Kochuri* plants) in large number prevails in navigable rivers such as the Bhairab and the Daratana and everywhere in the Khulna and Bagerhat subdivisions, district Khulna;

(*ii*) that water-hyacinth comes from other districts;

(*iii*) that from the public navigable rivers and other places, water-hyacinth infects private agricultural lands and fields; and

(*iv*) of the disastrous consequences upon agriculture and trade owing to the prevalence of water-hyacinth?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, do the Government contemplate taking any immediate step towards the eradication of water-hyacinth from the Bhairab and Daratana and other rivers in the subdivisions of Khulna and Bagerhat?

(*c*) If no immediate steps are in contemplation, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for the same?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) (*i*) Yes, water-hyacinth is prevalent in the Bhairab and the Daratana during the months of November to February, when the plants float down to the Bay of Bengal. The plant also infests the *beels* and waterways everywhere.

(*ii*) The majority of the plants seen in the big rivers come to this district from Jessore and Faridpur.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) Navigation is obstructed by temporary accumulations in narrow *khals*. In the *beel* areas paddy cultivation is rendered difficult, and low-lying paddy suffers damage from inroads of the plant.

(*b*) The question of enforcing the Bengal Water-hyacinth Act is under consideration in consultation with the District Officer. The question of securing joint action by the districts of Jessore and Faridpur is also being examined.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Budget Discussion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: For the last few days we have listened to a long list of grievances against the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and his budget. I have very carefully followed all these discussions and I have also had occasion to examine the newspaper comments on the Hon'ble the Finance Minister's budget and the budget speech. They all seem to me to be alike. While there have been a few sprinklings of congratulation from certain sources, there was one uniformity about all of them, viz., that every one appeared to be dissatisfied with the budget. Even the leader of the European group, that very often takes pleasure in playing the henchman of any Government in power, said towards the end of his congratulatory speech that he had certain misgivings about the reimposition of the taxes. At a certain stage we felt bewildered at the remarks made by the so-called supporters of the Government and by members of the Coalition Party, who appeared to have taken the wind out of the sail of the opposition. I have carefully examined all these observations and I find that this universal dissatisfaction about the budget has been due mainly to the fact that the budget does not present to us any plan or any uniform programme nor does it show any policy behind it. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in his attempt to please everybody has pleased none. He has not satisfied a single section of this House. In the nature of things when anyone tries to please all, this is bound to be his unfortunate lot. I have some amount of sympathy for the Hon'ble the Finance Minister (The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Hear hear), not that he has really felt the urge for doing some comprehensive nation-building service, but because he is an unfortunate victim of circumstances in which he has to work in a Coalition Government and his budget cannot possibly show anything but a coalition mentality. He had to please every body and the method of pleasing was either to give doles or to give patronage or to offer promises. That is how he and his party exist and the budget exactly reflects that character. He has in his

budget made a spectacular attempt to touch almost every aspect of a nation's life. In fact, so far as womanhood goes, he has handled practically every stage of womanhood,—from the purdah college to the refuge, from the refuge to the maternity home and baby clinic, from the baby clinic to the Young Women's Christian Association; and he has not even forgotten the Calcutta Police and the Bengal Police who, in course of their duty to the State, have got to contract venereal diseases. He has made provision for that also. But, unfortunately, in making the provisions, he made terms with some members of his Government,—so that when the Hon'ble the Chief Minister wanted some lump sum for his native place or a college at Barisal, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister came up with a claim for his own village school named after his father. The whole budget reveals a picture like this peculiar to itself, which is almost turned into a game of dice,—if you play this, I play that; if you claim this, I claim that—that is all we find reflected on the pages of the budget.

The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has been applauded by the Leader of the European group for having presented in a very lucid manner the budget of the next year. I do not know whether the Leader of the European group, before he delivered his speech, had occasion to go through the pages of the budget himself. For, if that was so, I am sure,—I am not prepared to give him discredit, so far as his ability to study figures goes—he would have discovered that the budget presented this year is almost a muddle. It does not even give the comparative figures from year to year. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in his statement has stated that he has not given the comparative figures of the previous two years—why, he has not stated. In some of the budget heads in the detailed budget he has not even mentioned the comparative figures of the previous year, the revised budget estimates of 1937-38; and if that sort of presentation is considered to be a beautiful presentation, I for myself do not know what delusive presentation may be.

I have carefully gone through the budget and I have tried to find out the possible reasons for this failure to satisfy anyone. As Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan and others have already stated, the main and fundamental reason appears to be this that instead of attempting to make good use of the windfall of the revenue that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister was lucky enough to get, he tried to distribute this additional income over a large number of heads with a view to maintain popularity. In that attempt, unfortunately, he has miserably failed. It would have been very much better if there was one well chalked out plan or policy made out by Government and the Government tried to follow the whole policy by either capitalising the additional revenue and changing the character of the economic life of the country wholesale with a comprehensive planning, or else it would have been better to reserve the

money for some future Cabinet with a better plan to take up and to do better service to the country. But, I presume, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister himself knows his limitations, for he in his own budget statement freely acknowledges that he cannot make provision for better human material. He cannot make provision for greater national endurance. It is not for him to place before the nation higher ideals. His limitations are there, and we have to take them as such.

This patronage budget, for I do not want to examine whether this is a deficit budget or a prosperity budget as some newspapers have tried to make out—this patronage budget is leading us to a very dangerous precipice. When and how we shall change the entire character of the country we do not know. The patronage will go on increasing from time to time. Let us on this side of the House give the Finance Minister the warning that unless he comes out of the rut and takes a bold step with a programme with imagination and carries it out fearlessly, and on the contrary if he yields to these patronages, he will never be able either to serve the nation properly or to help the country in its onward march to progress. Why the budget does not satisfy everyone or anyone? It is because, as I have told you already, in the first place it has no policy behind it. If we knew that there was a Coalition Party with a well chalked out programme and they were prepared to put forward that progressive programme before the country and follow that programme, they would have had the support of a larger section of the people both here and outside, as for example, if we had known that there was a programme of effective retrenchment,—which is a cry not of this year only, but of years past. Let us judge from one standard. Is it too much to say that this budget has failed completely to satisfy the expectations of this House and of the country outside with regard to retrenchment? We find that the top heavy administration continues and continues with a vengeance. Even for His Excellency the Governor's household staff and other things there is an increased provision. The Hon'ble Ministers had made good provision for them in the last budget. I am not going to raise any discussion on the determination of the House last time, but why come forward with an additional demand on that item. Have not the Ministers got thoroughly enough to satisfy them? You have made a provision for 10,000 rupees more over Rs. 50,000 on travelling allowances spent last year. You have also had a provision made for an additional officer, who that officer will be and what will be his duties the House at least has not yet been taken into confidence. In retrenchment this budget has failed, and the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has come forward as an apologist for increased salaries, increased provisions, new appointments. I would only like the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to look back to his old days, to his own speeches in this House a few years back, and then make a retrospect both of his mind and of his budget.

There is also the failure and dissatisfaction, because the budget does not give any indication of any forward policy with regard to a large scale provision for nation-building services. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister's own theory of resurrecting the human being, mainly the agriculturist, has remained more in words than in actuality. So far as the agriculturists concerned, which admittedly, is the mainstay of the population of this Province, the additional grant provided is absolutely infinitesimal. As some members have pointed out, it is like a drop in the ocean, and even then a substantial portion of this additional grant, *i.e.*, nearly two lakhs is coming from provisions made by the Central Government. That is the situation. There has been no attempt made to give more work to the Civil Service. They remain as happy as ever, and on the top of that the compartmentalism of the administration of Government continues. Perhaps, it has become a little more fragmented in view of the larger number of portfolios provided for different ministers under the present regime. The failure in regard to plans and programmes has led to the provision of lump sum grants, a pernicious system which cannot too strongly be condemned. The system of lump sum grants opens out the possibilities of new dangers of corruption, of patronage and of hurriedly spending money without proper examination.

(The member having reached time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I tried to listen to as much of the financial statement as the learned and hon'ble Doctor opposite and the chaprasi club to my left permitted me to listen. It is becoming a nuisance, Sir. I could have begun with my remarks at once, Sir, but I see that the Coalition is becoming an obsession and a chimera for the learned Doctor. I shall forgive him the many things he has said, for, as the Persian saying goes—

نیش عقرب نہ از پئے کینست * مقتضائے طبیعتش اینست

"The sting of the scorpion is not out of enmity.

"It is the inevitable result of its nature."

(Hear, hear, from Coalition benches.) He has, however, belied the whole of his speech and the poison he has spouted, for, in reality, he has paid us, of the Coalition, the greatest compliment by admitting that we have taken all the wind out of his sails. Sir, I accept that as a compliment and I am very happy at it. It will be found, as time goes on, that there are men in the Coalition and points in its policy such as will make an India, perhaps, better than what it is to-day and certainly a better Bengal than what he and his colleagues visualise. Coalition, Sir, connotes broader sympathies and wider vision. (Hear, hear, from Coalition benches.)

An effort has also been made, Sir, to separate and segregate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister from his colleagues on the Treasury Benches and the blame for the shortcomings of the Budget has been put on them. This is a bit unfair. The team of the Cabinet does work under the principle of joint and collective responsibility but the Budget is my hon'ble friend the Finance Minister's show and he alone will have to take the kudos or bear the blame for it.

After these preliminary remarks, Sir, I should like to place the point of view, of some members on this side of the House, as briefly as I can. The presentation of the Budget was so clever and masterly that the Press and the public of Bengal have sunk into doubt and do not know whether to call it a deficit budget or a prosperity budget. It lacks boldness and displays an extraordinary amount of caution and conservatism; and this, coming from an insurance man who has thrived and prospered on risks, is indeed surprising. He has avoided every RISK. It may be that the traditions of the department overawed and oppressed him. He could not get away from them. He has stuck to the old rut and has not tried to extricate himself out of it. Or it may be that his colleagues did not help him with any well thought out and well formulated projects of a nation-building character. I shall quote a few passages from his statement to explain my meaning. The Government has "failed to understand and guide the forces that drive us." The Budget contradicts the Financial Statement in that "a certain spirit of adventure and boldness in investment, in throwing aside of narrow loyalties, traditions and prejudices" and "a widening of our horizon", are conspicuously absent from the budget. He has not brought to us "the ray of hope where there now broods darkness." No effort has been made to dispel it. "The process of nation-building" and "the invoking of our legislative powers to find out a way of our difficulties" have been left severely alone as the Government is not "prepared boldly to do so." I would also submit, Sir, that "desirable expenditure" has been literally hamstrung and the chances of putting our house in order have been nipped in the bud. Caution, care, circumspection, forethought, looking ahead—howsoever you put it—Yes, but indecision and hesitation at the start will never take you to the winning post. My hon'ble friend the Finance Minister has undoubtedly oiled the existing machine and thinks that he has accelerated its pace by doling out his largesse in a stingy manner among his colleagues on the Treasury Benches. But that does not really take us far. I know, Sir, that it is a truncated Budget. I know, Sir, that there are items in it called "Voted" and "Charged." Under such conditions it was, perhaps, difficult for the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to go all out and give full rein to his ideas and imagination and yet I feel, Sir, that with over 2¼ crores at his disposal he could have gone ahead a bit more boldy than what he has done.

Our aim, Sir, is to try and make the Province self-sufficient. Bengal should produce enough food for the people that live in it. Bengal should grow enough raw material to feed its growing industries and Bengal should control the sale of what she produces, both inside and outside the country. For the attainment of these, I would have liked to see a scheme of a Soil Survey of the Province, in the Budget as also of a complete Industrial Survey. These surveys will help us to formulate our programme for the future and if the help of the legislature is needed, it will always be at the disposal of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. We have got to raise the purchasing power of the people. We have to see that the people as a whole come up. We have to harness the man-power of Bengal, without any wastage whatsoever, to carry us forward and for this purpose it is essential that they get better food, that they are in better health and, therefore, capable of putting greater energy into the task before them. Provision has, indeed, been made for reorganising and improving the existing technical and industrial institutions. But what is lacking is that no scheme has been put forward for marketing the produce of the cottage workers nor of financing cottage, small or large industries. There is also no indication whatsoever in the Budget in regard to National or Key Industries. Troublous times are ahead and unless we take good care, it may be, that we shall be left behind the other countries of the world. We shall be caught napping. The trend of international politics to-day is such that anything might happen to-morrow and unless we come out immediately with a bold scheme of organising and controlling our Key Industries we may find ourselves in trouble. I welcome the provision made for an Expert Inquiry Committee and I also welcome the establishment of the Advisory Council. I expect that businessmen, men of commerce and representatives of trade interests will be appointed to the Council else the discoveries and inventions of research scholars will never come out of the laboratories. Without the experience of men of affairs in commerce and industry it will not be possible to apply the discoveries and inventions to the use and benefit of humanity.

After the discussion we had the other day in the House about the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, I am surprised that the Budget does not show any signs of a reduction in the rates of electricity. We would, indeed, have very much liked to have some indication of the lines of a policy of nationalisation along which the Government propose to extend the use of electricity in rural areas. There is no such provision or indication of it in the Budget.

I cannot imagine why Bengal should import timber in such large quantities when there are vast forests in the Province itself. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has quietly put into his pocket over sixty thousand rupees in the matter of the Salt Subsidy but spent only a paltry two thousand. Why can Bengal not produce salt of its own?

There are many other items in the Budget of this character which call for comment but I shall not trouble the House with them at this stage. I should, however, like to suggest, most humbly, to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, that there should be a real and true reorientation of the whole of our financial policy. Our effort, as I have said, should be to make Bengal self-sufficient and for that no expenditure should be grudged or considered as too large.

Sir, there are magnificent passages in the Financial Statement on Taxation and Retrenchment. They are good in their own way but I wish we had been told a bit more about essentials. We do not grudge State servants, their salaries but we want value for our money. I hold to the principle that—

مزدور خوش دل کند کار بیش *

"The contented labourer does better work."

We will pay public servants as much as they deserve. The administrative machinery has to run smoothly and its smallest wheel and part have to perform their allotted task efficiently. But we do have a horror of an army of Government servants under divers designations such as Directors, Advisors, Experts, chaprasis and chaukidars.

Coming to taxation, I did expect that my hon'ble friend the Finance Minister would tell us in this Budget that the time had now come to levy a tax on unearned increment and on agricultural income. Sir, we have got to find money for building the nation and those who can afford to pay must be taxed. If betting, amusements and profits are taxed, I see no reason why the Hon'ble Minister should not try to tap new sources of revenue by imposing a turnover tax on all transactions in the share, bullion and jute markets. Sir, if he pays the least bit of attention to this source of collecting money, he will find a gold mine which will give him the fullest possible chance for the realisation of his wildest dreams about education, about agriculture, about industries and, in short about the imposition of a superstructure of nationalism over Bengal. If he so desires, I am prepared to place my services at his disposal and explain to him in detail what I mean.

I wish he had told us something of the retrenchments he proposes to make. In trying to think where I could use the axe, my mind turns to the High Court and the Police. The High Court has more Judges than we can afford. These could, perhaps, be reduced. A High Court Judge should be made to work in the High Court as any other servant of the State. Accumulation of work in the High Court has become proverbial and the inordinate delays in it troublesome. If necessary, we should establish a City Civil Court, like the one in Madras. This will relieve the High Court of some of its work. I feel that if the Judges are requested to work like other servants of the State and if

additional Judges are not added from day to day, we shall soon find that accumulations will disappear and delays will be a thing of the past.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: On a point of order, Sir. Is it permissible for any honourable member to say that Judges of the High Court do not work like others, and that they shirk their work?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you have said more than what Mr. Siddiqi has said. I do not think that he has said that. All that he said was that Judges of the High Court should be made to work like others.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: He said that Judges should be made to work like others, and you do not consider it to be a reflection on what they are doing now?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, I do not consider it to be a reflection on the Judges of the High Court.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Very well!

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, I never suggested that Judges of the High Court shirked their work——

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Siddiqi, I am sorry, I have to stop you. You have reached the time-limit.

(Mr. Siddiqi then resumed his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall now adjourn the House for 15 minutes for prayer.

(The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Mr. JATINDRA NATH BASU: I congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on the budget that he has placed before this House. I think our congratulations are due to him, because he has given us at least some substantive things and not the negatives and adjectives to which we were treated by Dr. Sanyal. The budget has, no doubt, not given us all that we want. We want so much in this province, but the revenue of this province——

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not like to stop you, Mr. Basu, in the midst of your speech, but to-day being the last day of the general discussion of the budget, I hope you will try to be as brief as possible.

Mr. JATINDRA NATH BASU: All right I shall take only five minutes.

The revenue of the province is so meagre that it is not possible to introduce the big schemes of which we have heard. It was suggested that some of these schemes might be taken up by issuing loans; but for purposes of loans we require sufficient revenue to find the sinking fund for the repayment of the loans. We have heard that though during the present year the revenue has been 13 crores and odd, about 3 crores or a little over may be said to be fluctuating and there is no knowing as to what will be the revenue next year. Every member of this House knows that it has not been possible for the Government of Bengal during the last 7 years to issue a public loan because of its finances, and the condition of the finances of this province is not yet such that we can boldly go forward and borrow hundreds of crores.

Sir, the Ministry has taken steps to ameliorate the condition of the peasants in various ways; the co-operative movement has been receiving close attention; the economic resources of the province like forests have also been receiving attention, and we have had a tenancy legislation of a character which some consider to be too drastic. What is needed is to increase the income of the people of this province. For that purpose I would request the Ministry to consider as to whether they should not establish an Economic Council for this province to keep careful watch over the economic resources like our agricultural produce and our industries and to see as to how to suit our products to the requirements of the times. About 15 or 20 years ago certain products were valuable and the tenants were comparatively better off, but subsequently by reason of world movements the prices of those commodities have come down. There should be some one to keep constant watch over our resources, so that the people may be directed to proper channels for finding other resources or improving the resources that they have.

In this connection it will probably be necessary for that Council to consider the question of our trade relations with the other provinces of India and with neighbouring countries. For instance, about a quarter of a century ago Bengal used to export rice to various countries; those exports have largely ceased, and in that way we have lost a great deal. The question should be considered why there has been a falling off of the demand that we used to have. All these questions require the closest attention and there must be some authority to keep watch over our resources and capabilities and the currents of our economic

life. I trust this suggestion will receive consideration at the hands of Government. Measures about improving the relationship between landlords and tenants and the formation of co-operative societies and similar things may receive consideration. These are undoubtedly useful in their own way; but if the resources of the people do not increase, measures of temporary relief will not be effective. With these words, Sir, I conclude my remarks in view of the short time at my disposal.

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, some of us in this House have had so long an experience of provincial budgets that we are at sight conscious of their fate, and of their fortune. We know as soon as a budget is produced that it will be vehemently attacked as an outrage, a mockery and a delusion; also that it will be passed as it stands with little or no change; indeed with little serious attempt to make any change.

I claim to have read this budget with no unpractised eye. For, in my Secretariat days I constructed seven budgets, or perhaps eight, and so have some familiarity with budgetary science. The budgets I was called to construct were departmental budgets. It was not for me to climb the dizzy heights where provincial budgets are prepared. But even from departmental budgets it can be learned that there is one special branch of budgetary practice which consists in setting your facts and items out in such a way as to conceal all information behind them. In the budget before us I find nothing of that sort. It seems to me to be a straightforward, sensible, useful budget striking a balance between the claims of the several departments and recognising what public opinion thinks should be done.

In this House we are 250 members, the Finance Minister and 249 others. If these other 249 intelligent men—or if that is thought to be an arrogant estimate, the other 248 intelligent men—were to draw up each a budget with the materials that the Finance Minister had to deal with, I venture to say that the 248 budgets would along broad lines be similar to this. Not so good, for few of them would show the same mastery of figures or the same ruthless determination to prevent some Ministers from getting more than their fair share. But, generally speaking, the results would be the same. For this reason, though a budget may show the hand of a cunning worker it is nevertheless the resultant of all the forces acting on a Finance Minister when he is drawing it up.

The Finance Minister, whoever he is, can proceed in one way and one way only. His first duty is to include the cost of day to day administration, and that in nearly every province in India takes nearly the whole of his store. Next he must put in projects already begun

that require to be completed. After that he must put in certain schemes to which Government are pledged and that are already sanctioned. Finally, with what small balance is left he can think of new proposals and distribute it among the different departments. Can any member say he has handled this Red Book and is not satisfied that the Finance Minister has made good use of his balance? I think he has given us a very good structure. He has done well for us. And I for one would congratulate him on it. If that, as has been said, is only the usual subservience of the members of the European Group to the Government in power, I am not ashamed of it and I offer no apology. To me it seems that this budget takes its place worthily with the Finance Minister's first budget last year, about which I may remind you that we did not reject or modify any item when we came to the voting of grants, and with which we have had a comparatively prosperous year.

The only serious criticism I have seen of the Finance Minister's figures was in one of our newspapers which pointed out that the estimated revenues of 13 crores 13 lakhs was the repetition of an unlucky number that would bring his blood on his own head. He could hardly have estimated himself out of 13 crores with his material, but he could easily have estimated himself into another figure than 13 lakhs. That he did not do so shows either that he was confident in the future or that he was not terrified by thoughts of the ill luck supposed to be attached to that number. This is a deficit budget, he himself has candidly told us. He need not have said it. In what sense is it a deficit budget? He estimates his revenue cautiously at a time when this year's figures show he might well have been more hazardous. He has estimated his expenditure generously, though we may remind ourselves that in this province we are not good spenders, that certain departments always find it difficult to spend the money allotted to them. I do not suppose the expenditure he has put down will be exceeded, or anyhow considerably exceeded, and I shall be surprised if the revenue he has estimated will not be exceeded. Does the small deficit he chooses to show justify the language used, here and elsewhere, about our condition? That we are "bankrupt"? That we are on the slippery slope leading to the bottomless pit? Or any of the other dreadful things we have heard during the past few days? I think that with these figures and with a comparatively big balance behind us we may go on with our year's work with every comfort of mind.

There are many details on which I should like to speak, but I shall defer them to the time when we vote grants. I with many others was startled, happily startled, when I heard that the province was going to have a college for purdah women. We of this group (our friend Mr. J. C. Gupta would call us visitors from Timbuctu and Honolulu) have not the privilege of knowing what young women behind the

purdah are aspiring to. But I presume that the Education Minister is sure of his ground and that there is a demand among them for this advance to justify the expenditure. I for one am glad to know it, but I may say one thing by way of caution. Social changes come upon us quickly nowadays in India, and if Government is as dilatory in bringing this college into existence as it has been with certain other educational schemes there is the danger that the purpose it is intended to serve will disappear before the college is ready.

I am glad to welcome more provision for primary education. We are told that there will be many more schools in certain districts. May I once again beg the Minister for Education to see that we do not merely substitute for a large number of private inefficient village schools an equal number of inefficient schools maintained at public cost. As I have said before, our country England has universal primary education; every boy and girl there is educated. Yet our primary or elementary schools number about 20,000. In this province we do a very small part of what we ought to be doing yet our primary schools number about 60,000. That means there is great wastage of money and effort. I may remind the Minister for Education of what I said last year, that a village school, or a school between villages, of say 90 children and 3 teachers is much more than three times as valuable for education and as a social contribution as one school of 30 boys and one teacher. For our schools with one teacher have a habit of disappearing periodically when the teacher gets fever, or is called away to the marriage of a sister or cousin; the school disappears for three days, or three weeks, or three months. If we have village schools with two, three or four teachers that sort of thing will not happen. It is one of the causes of inefficiency in our village education.

I shall say only one other thing. The Minister in charge of Co-operative Credit is making what I consider to be a very promising proposals. Many of us here know that Co-operative Credit is nothing like what it ought to be. It is supposed to bring about a regular flow of credit, out and back. It has come to be a flow out and hardly a trickle back. If we cannot revive the movement the department will soon be wrecked or irretrievably damaged. I see that someone is going to study what Denmark can teach us. The money will be well spent. Denmark can teach valuable lessons in agricultural credit. In Denmark——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why not in Engand?

Mr. W. C. WORDSWORTH: Well, I am referring to Denmark. I was about to say that if those who are going to study primary education in England are enabled to call in at Denmark and spend some time

there they too could learn valuable lessons. Certain things can be learnt there more fully and more easily than in any other country.

I trust I shall have an opportunity of speaking about other matters when we come to the voting of grants.

Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister's budget rings with sincerity. Honest efforts have been made in the budget to meet the wishes of the different sections of this legislative body. The advancement of the children of the soil, specially of those who have been kept back for generations together, I mean the scheduled castes, numbering about 1/5th of the total population of the province, should be the guiding principle of a popular Government. It is satisfactory to note that this idea has not been lost sight of in the preparation of this year's budget. The various allotments are not sufficient to meet our entire needs, but no sane man can deny that an earnest endeavour has been made in the right direction. Provision has been made for special scholarships and stipends for our boys and girls. Stipends will also be available to our boys for education abroad. This is a new venture and the Government deserves our highest appreciation for this new policy. But, Sir, education must be supplemented by a due share in the administration of the land. It is a matter of deep regret that gross injustice has been done to the members of the scheduled castes in recent appointments to the Bengal Provincial Executive Service. Out of 40 appointments only 2, that is to say only 5 per cent., have been given to the scheduled castes, though I am sure there was no dearth of our qualified candidates. Government rules in the year 1930 expressly provided that at least 10 per cent. of such appointments were to be reserved for members of the scheduled castes; but, Sir, it appears to me that the new Government, instead of progressing forward, has been moving backward without any justification whatsoever. I submit, Sir, that this is really deplorable. Then again, we have pressed our claims times without number for an adequate percentage of appointments in the services and we would like to hear the policy of Government in this respect. Sir, proper scope should be given to our people in all the self-governing institutions of the land, namely, Union Boards, Local Boards, District Boards, Municipalities and the Calcutta Corporation. Civic consciousness of our people has been aroused and they have just started to take a keen interest in the affairs of these bodies. I submit that the time is not yet ripe for the introduction of a full-fledged elective system all at once. We therefore, adhere to the system of nomination on these bodies for our people. Last but not the least—the demand for compulsory free primary education is really akin to the demand for the air we breathe. The case is so strong that it needs no arguments to convince anyone to make its provision universal throughout the province. I am sure, Sir, that the demand for primary education has

been universal in this House also. So I need not take the time of the House in further discussion over this all-important matter. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Dr. H. C. MUKHERJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I must confess that I am not qualified to make a pronouncement on the contents of the budget as a whole. I, therefore, propose to confine my remarks to one particular side of the budget only, that is to say, to collegiate education and, even there, to confine it to collegiate education among females. I find that in the year 1936, there were 2,070 students who passed the Matriculation Examination, 550 who passed the I.A. Examination, and 54 who passed the I.Sc. Examination. Omitting Assam there were altogether 1,200 female students who were preparing to take up collegiate education. I find further that of these students about 1,100 were staying in the Calcutta area this year. I find also that there are a number of hostels—collegiate hostels—which are accommodating 230 female students at present. There were a number of non-collegiate hostels which altogether accommodated 108 students. It thus follows that out of nearly 1,100 female students there were only 321 who were living under the proper conditions. This leaves about 774 students of Calcutta who were not living under the immediate supervision of college authorities. Granting for the sake of argument that 50 per cent. of these are living with their parents, there are still about 400 female students who were not living under ideal conditions. I would like to draw the attention of the House to a remark made on this point, at a meeting of the Senate held on the 26th September 1936 by Dr. Jenkins—"whatever may be the policy of women's education in future however we may differentiate our courses of studies, it will certainly remain a fact that a certain percentage of lady students will follow the normal academic studies. That percentage will produce a far greater number than can be accommodated in the existing hostels or in one or two hostels that may be built in future. The question of satisfactory accommodation for girl students is an extremely urgent and important one. I think, I can conceive of no better scheme than of providing satisfactory accommodation for girl students who are already in our colleges and for those who will be coming in future". This, Sir, is the opinion of an eminent officer of the Education Department who had himself visited some of the ladies' hostels which are being maintained by colleges in Calcutta. I would therefore, draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to this particular case of providing hostel accommodation for our female students. In this connection I may be permitted to refer to a particular scheme put forward by the University for which the University is prepared to spend one lakh of rupees, provided necessary funds are made available from Government. I am aware that the University is in correspondence with Government. But I contend, Sir, that the providing

of a single hostel will not solve this immediate and urgent problem. Then, Sir, I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to the present condition of the Bethune College. I may be permitted to say that I regard the Bethune College as corresponding to the Presidency College for male students in Calcutta. I see around me many some of them as old as I am, who have been educated in this institution. I find that in the Presidency College students of all religious faiths are admitted freely and that they have derived profit from the instruction which they received in this institution. In the Bethune College the accommodation is very unsatisfactory. I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to a Committee that was appointed early in the year 1932 under pressure from certain very important officials of the Education Department. Two colleges in Calcutta were supposed to have admitted more students than they have accommodation for, and the result—I hope I am not betraying a secret—was that the University felt that an enquiry should be made. The Committee that was appointed to conduct this enquiry consisted of the late Sir Kedar Nath Das. He was taken into this Committee probably because it was felt that the presence of a medical man of his standing was necessary. The second was Dr. P. N. Ghosh. He was included because some of those colleges are affiliated in Science subjects. And the third was my humble self. We conducted the enquiry for about three months, and after that we submitted a report. When the report was submitted it was found that these two private colleges were guilty of admitting more students than they ought to have done. But the condition of things prevailing in the Bethune College was very much worse and the result was that the whole thing was quietly shelved. At the time when the Committee was constituted and when it was working, the then lady Principal of the Bethune College admitted that she could not provide accommodation for more than 100 students, and yet I find that in the year 1933-34, there were 145 students, in 1934-35, 194 students, in 1935-36, 278 students, and in 1937-38, 301 students. In this institution, Sir, there are 10 lecture rooms, 2 of 360 square feet each; 2 measure 240 square feet each; 1 room measured 205 square feet and there are 2 each measuring 81 square feet and 1 measuring 180 square feet. Taking 10 square feet per student we calculated that we could not possibly impart instruction to more than 100 students. Years have come and gone, but no attempt has been made to add to the accommodation. I know that the Christ Church buildings have been acquired, but if my information is correct this building has been acquired for providing hostel accommodation. Sir, if money is to be spent for education, I contend that that money ought to be spent in order to add to the teaching accommodation of the Bethune College. Let there be a Purdah college. It is not for me who do not belong to the Moslem community to say whether the college should be purdah or not, that is a matter on which the Muslim

community should have its voice. But when it comes to a question of providing funds out of the public revenues, I think I am justified in entering my protest. Let us see what the scheme implies. First of all we have five lakhs as capital grant of which we are asked to pass 2 lakhs. That, Sir, is not the end, because we shall have to provide furniture, we shall have to provide electrical fittings and sanitary fittings and so on and so forth. In this connection, I may be permitted to add that at the beginning of the current year there were 37 Moslem women students studying in different colleges. I took the trouble of going through the applications submitted by them and I found that in the I.A. and B.A. Classes Moslem female students are studying 10 subjects. These are English, Bengali, Urdu, Persian, Arabic, Philosophy including Logic, History, Economics including Civics, Mathematics and Botany. If all the subjects are taught up to the B.A. Pass standard, there will be required a staff consisting of 17 teachers; 2 for English, 1 for Bengali, 3 for Arabic, Persian and Urdu, 2 for Logic and Philosophy, 2 for Hostory, 2 for Civics and Economics, 2 for Mathematics, and 2 for Botany, plus 1 Demonstrator. At the Bethune College there is a staff consisting of 18 teachers, and the records will show that the entertainment of this staff is costing the country a sum of Rs. 65,000 and odd. Now, Sir, if this Purdah college is established, it will have not only a recurring expenditure of Rs. 65,000 and odd, but over and above that there will be other working expenses. I contend that the expenditure for maintaining this college cannot be less than that for maintaining the Bethune College which is approximately one lakh, or to be more accurate, Rs. 99,000 and odd. If the 37 Moslem students join the Purdah college about which I am doubtful, for the simple reason that my experience as Inspector of Colleges has shown, that many of them prefer to enter the Loreto House, it should mean an expenditure of Rs. 2,800 per head per year. In this connection I would draw the attention of the House to certain facts. At the Loreto House where the Mothers are imparting instruction to students belonging to all faiths, they not only give instruction, but over and above that they supply residence and food at an inclusive cost of Rs. 60 a month. At the St. Helen's College at Kurseong where also female students are to be seen the cost is Rs. 60 per month. At St. Mary's College, Shillong, the monthly charges are Rs. 50 only. So far as the hill colleges for men are concerned, I find that in the St. Joseph's College at Darjeeling and St. Edmund's College at Shillong the cost is never more than Rs. 60 per month. I ask whether there is any justification for spending Rs. 2,800 a year for imparting instruction to each Moslem female student when in these institutions instruction of a very much higher type and efficiency can be had at Rs. 720 per year. This is my argument against this Muslim Purdah College. I would by all means like to see a college started for Moslem young

women if only the country must advance by that. But I contend that till there is a sufficient number of students, there is no necessity for starting this college. The Islamia College was established long after the Presidency College had been established. Let this Purdah college be started when no accommodation for Muslim young women can be had in other institutions. There is another suggestion, Sir, which I venture to offer with the greatest possible humility. It is this that——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat and several members stood up in their seats to speak.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I am very sorry. I hoped more members could speak to-day. I tried to give a chance to one speaker from each group, but I find it is now 7. I think the Finance Minister, if the House at all wants to hear him, should now reply and he is likely to take a little more time. I am informed that he will take about an hour. So I do not think it may be possible for others to speak.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, these four days I have been a silent listener, listening patiently to all that the Hon'ble members had to say about the Budget, and striving as well as I could to derive as much profit as possible from the remarks of the Hon'ble Members. I have learnt a lot not only about the subject matter of the Budget, but also received some indication of the shape of things to come. As is the usual practice, I now rise to reply.

First of all, Sir, I wish to acknowledge my gratefulness to the very few hon'ble members who have found it possible for them to congratulate me on this Budget. I also offer my thanks to the other members who have so patiently and so carefully scrutinized my Budget speech and criticized it. In this I do not exclude, Sir, my old friend Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal, not for the criticism he has made, because I think he has performed the duties of a drain inspector in the matter of the Budget, but I thank him because he has so closely studied the facts and figures of my Budget that even the item regarding an unnameable disease has not escaped his notice and I think I ought to thank him. In him I find, Sir, as the Bengali saying goes, that the magnet only attracts steel and not gold, and out of the voluminous statement of my Budget, he has only picked out something which is unnameable, because I think that he is particularly drawn to this. But, Sir, I want to say, if I may, that I am always prepared to accept both congratulations and condemnations in the same spirit. The former do not make me too elated nor the latter too down-hearted. In no country is the lot of the Finance Minister a bed of roses, far less is the case in this country. Here it cannot be expected even of the most prudent Finance Minister to make provision for sufficient measures for the removal of the

accumulated deficiencies of our social structure within the span of one or two budgets. I am not so purblind as not to fully agree with the contention that our problems are so stupendous and complex that our efforts at tackling them are puny by comparison. But I may submit that no Government in this country whatever its political complexion, can assay more than to touch the fringe of the problem in the beginning, no matter what the budgetary surplus or what available resources there are in the hands of the Government. I venture to suggest that by way of an attempt to sow a handful of seeds over a very vast area, our budget is not a contemptible effort as some of the members have wanted to describe it. At the same time I can fully realize that hon'ble members are eager that with greater power in their hands under the new Constitution, they should be able at once to make a spectacular break from the past as to the results of the ameliorative and reconstructive measures of the Government. In such an atmosphere one who must have an aye to realities and the practical aspects of the situation should not look for congratulations, but be prepared for bitter criticism on all sides. His only consolation is that he is doing his best, and if he wants to take any other satisfaction, he may congratulate himself on the fact that he has been the object of much notice these few days. But, Sir, I do realize that there may be notable exceptions in the case of provinces where the Congress is in power. For in those provinces the policies and actions of the Finance Minister find either a weak opposition or obtain such strong and ready support from their own party that the opposition can offer very little trouble. But here of course things are yet different. I am only too well aware that we have not provided for all the needs or enough for those we have. I never claim to have done enough. The fact is that we have prepared a Budget for one year and in the prevailing condition when new machinery has to be set up, new expenditure to be incurred, I have to provide only for that which we might reasonably spend within that time. The amount may be small in many cases, but I can assure you, Sir, the small amount may represent just the beginning of some very large undertaking needing later on much larger expenditure. We are in fact in many cases laying just the foundation stone which is all that we can do at present. The superstructure will come later, entailing considerably more expenditure and consistently with the proportion and importance of the superstructure our efforts will be certainly expedited. To make my position clear, Sir, I would cite the case of primary education. Here we have made a beginning in the district of Mymensingh, and we want to take up three or four more districts during the next year, where we shall introduce primary education, while in seven or eight other districts the schemes are under our consideration. I feel confident that within the course of four or five years, we shall be able to take steps to make primary education free and compulsory throughout Bengal. It should be realised that even if we had the resources, even if we had the

necessary funds it would not be possible for us to spend them on schemes in every district of this province within the space of one year. Let us not be content merely with the planning of schools, but let us do things in such a way that the schools will be efficient and the training adequate. For this a training of teachers is necessary and the educational curriculum has to be carefully framed.

As regards education cess to which many members have alluded, I quite appreciate the desire of the Hon'ble members for imparting primary education by avoiding imposition of the cess. It is my firm conviction, Sir, that in the prevailing condition it is impossible to launch upon a huge scheme like this without some sort of taxation, because, primary education does not stop at the teaching of the three R's in the primary schools. As soon as you give effect to the scheme of primary education on a wide scale, you will have to strengthen secondary schools, vocational schools, technical schools and the library movement all of which will call for huge expenditure. The present cess will not suffice to cover even the cost of training these pupils. Government are undertaking the entire cost of training teachers, but I think Government will have to give substantial subvention to make up the entire cost.

We have to begin with the imposition of the Cess under the present Act, but in the meantime we are investigating all fresh avenues of taxation. If we can find a satisfactory and practical avenue of fresh taxation to the extent required for primary education in that case we would discontinue the cess, but in view of the urgency of the matter it is meanwhile necessary to retain it. In my tours of different areas I found the people anxious to avoid that taxation if possible, but if that meant the postponement of primary education they would rather pay them than suffer the want of this education. I personally agree with Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that if we impose fresh taxation we ought to make primary education compulsory. I am sure the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Education will give the remarks of Mr. Tamizuddin Khan his due consideration. Then again take the case of rural medical help. We have provided in the next year's budget only Rs. 1 lakh 50 thousand to serve rural areas with doctors, assistants, and medicine for a manageable group of villages. To establish machineries for this purpose with the collaboration of Union and District Boards will naturally take time, and within the course of a year we may not be able to establish a sufficient number of such centres to spend more than the amount we have budgeted for but the entire scheme when completed will cost us about 50 lakhs.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Wait and see.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: 5 or 6 years.

The case of improvement of agriculture must in the nature of things be a slower process. The removal of the illiteracy of the cultivator, providing against the preventible diseases he suffers from, the deficiency of his uneconomic holdings, his primitive methods of cultivation, etc., will require time, and even for the taking of preliminary steps a certain amount of time is inevitable. For instance, to increase production, to improve the quality of the crops, to educate agriculturists as to what kind of crops to grow, the introduction of more remunerative crops, the consolidation of holdings, cattle improvement, veterinary and animal husbandry—facilities, better food for cattle and pasturage and the establishment of the necessary organisations to secure him better prices—these are not matters which can be dealt with in the course of a year's budget with the hope of any appreciable results. It is bound to take time. Research work will be necessary and to acquaint the illiterate agriculturists with the result of such researches in the improvement of the crops and the improved methods of cultivation, the control of and the prevention of plant diseases, manures, etc., the exploration of the possibilities of introducing commercial crops suited to the different parts of the province, we shall have to train men because we have not got enough men who are qualified enough to teach these things. For that training we shall have to establish an agricultural institute, both for training and the research and as soon as suitable men are trained, to establish district farms to function as units, arrange for demonstration, etc. We may have to subsidise cultivators' farms and take steps for educative propaganda and publicity. When all the steps are complete, then we may expect to show some tangible results. On the question of better prices the stimulation of exports, the currency, credit and exchange policy are not in our hands, so that spectacular results by these methods in that direction cannot be expected from us. I would, therefore, request the honourable members to consider the practical possibility of achieving big results within a year or two under the prevailing conditions. Not even a dictator with a free hand and untrammelled resources can change the social and economic outlook of a nation in a year or two, not to speak of a democratic Government whose steps are necessarily slower.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Look at Mussolini and Hitler.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I am coming to that.

Where all-powerful Dictators in Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany were not able to do anything substantial for a period of years, although they set out to do this with a more science-minded, disciplined and

abler human material, is it fair and reasonable to expect a representative Government in Bengal with much meagre resources, more complex problems and poorer human materials to achieve miracles in the short span of a year or two?

Then, Sir, with regard to industry, it has been complained that we have not provided any large sums for the industrialisation of the country. As a businessman and also as a public man, I have during the last decade given practically the best years of my life to strive for making our people in this province industrially and commercially minded. I cannot, therefore, be accused of lack of interest or sympathy on the question of industrialisation. But, Sir, planning for accelerating industrialisation postulates the power to manipulate a number of factors such as currency, credit, exchange, tariff and railway freights over which the Provincial Government has no control. So it is not possible for this Government to undertake any full and real plan for industrialisation in the sense which is implied by the term and which I have just indicated. Another point is that in this province the industries which are most suited to the province, have reached their saturation point under the prevailing conditions at least, as for instance, coal, jute and tea. So whatever impetus it is within the powers of this Government to impart can only be given to industries on newer lines. A provision has accordingly been made in the budget for an expert enquiry as to the industries which Government might foster and encourage and the way in which it could do so. As regards public utility undertakings, the matter has been receiving Government's attention. The Government have now under consideration a scheme for the generation and supply of electrical energy throughout the whole province. My friend Mr. Khaitan—I see he is not present here—has said that my budget discloses complete ignorance of the subject of the development of industries. But not only from his two speeches on the budget this year and last year have I unfortunately received any new light on industrial development but throughout my acquaintance with Mr. Khaitan extending for over a decade, I do not remember to have received a better enlightenment on the subject. I can assure the honourable members that Government have in their policy and programme for the industrial development of the province truly laid the foundation of its development. So far as the Government are concerned, they would do their best to give a push to the industrial development, but real success would depend on private enterprise, and the creation of an atmosphere in which the inclination to thrive on income received from rent and interest is replaced by a spirit of adventure in favour of industrial investments, and this Government by their efforts will do all that is possible to create that atmosphere. Next, Sir, there has been much complaint as to the insufficiency of allotments for Muhammadans and scheduled classes.

I think, Sir, that except in the matter of education, allotments in other departments such as Agriculture, Industries, Public Health, Co-operative Credit, Roads and Communications will benefit all communities equally. In Education of course, special provision should be made for Muhammadans and scheduled classes and other backward communities and the Government recognise that this must be done. In this sphere also so far as the primary education, secondary education and college education are concerned, the institutions that are available affect all equally, but some of the backward communities being too poor the students need to be assisted and for that purpose Government have provided special scholarships for Muhammadans and scheduled class students. This is a first experiment and I think that whatever provision has been made in the initial year will prove sufficient. If Government is convinced that they should be extended next year, certainly Government will give it their best consideration. My friend Mr. Manmohan Das who is also my countryman has criticised me on the ground that while we have provided Rs. 70 thousand for madrassas we have not provided such a sum for the scheduled castes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL. Are we not your countrymen?

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I was drawing your attention the other day that there was a limit to obstruction and I am afraid I will have to appoint an officer to find out how many "obstructions" are committed by different members.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am sorry if you would take it as an obstruction; it is only co-operation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you know perfectly well that it is not co-operation but it is obstruction.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Let us have another Obstruction Officer.

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: You may be that officer.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I throw that appointment on your face.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: For the Muhammadans, madrassas are necessary for their cultural needs. I have not heard that a similar need exists for scheduled classes. Their culture

is the same as that of the Hindus and the existing colleges and secondary schools should, therefore, suffice for their needs. But Government are prepared if there is any dearth of schools in areas where the scheduled classes predominate, to establish schools for them if necessary. I congratulate Mr. Manmohan Das on his good maiden speech and I forgive him his vehemence, but I can assure him that I am not neglectful to the requirements of the scheduled classes. I would like further to tell him that I cannot mete out a favourite treatment to my own district, for as a Minister for the whole province I have to treat all alike and not favour any particular area.

I am very glad, Sir, that Mr. J. C. Gupta, who initiated the discussions on the Congress side, has characterized my speech as an excellent one and has done me the honour of going through my statement very thoroughly and carefully. He has suggested that my appreciation of the national needs was born of the fact of my "having been nursed on Congress ideals and having thrived among Congress men". Mr. Gupta, I must say, has here emphasized the obvious, for, in fact, I have always recognised that I received my first training in politics and national service under Congress influence, and that influence has gone very largely into my making, and even to-day, although I am not in the Congress Party, Congress ideals of national service never fail to inspire me. Mr. Gupta stated that my budget was a glaring example of the widest divergence between profession and practice. Mr. Gupta was, I think, ill-advised to pounce upon my budget for an example of divergence between profession and practice, for instances of such divergence, as he seems to find in my budget, he must too often have met with much nearer home. It is, probably, the experience of many politicians that their professions and their practice are not only divergent, but at any particular time they bear not even a proportional similarity to each other. There is at best always a wide time-lag. For my budget, however, I never claimed that it is even a distant approximation to the ideals I profess. But I would claim this, that I always sincerely and diligently try to approach the lofty ideal which I have placed before me. For whatever I am worth, I have applied myself whole-heartedly to the task and the ideal I have set up for myself. My ideal, as I emphasised both in my last year's budget speech and this year's, is to resurrect "the man behind the plough". It has given me an inner satisfaction to find that this expression of "the man behind the plough", which I used in my last budget speech, has apparently caught the imagination of honourable members, and even when they have criticized my budget, they have not failed to add their emphasis to mine on the urgent need of the improvement of the living and working conditions of the man behind the plough. I am glad that the man behind the plough has thus come in the forefront in the debates of this House, and I do sincerely hope

that this would help to focus our attention still more to the solution of the woes of this poor, weary, and lonely figure of Bengal's villages. (Ironical cheers from Congress Benches.) For me there is no ambition that is greater, and no ideal which is loftier, than this task of resurrecting the man behind the plough.

I now come to the remarks of my friend Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas. He has made a proposal for buying out zemindars with the idea of obtaining much larger revenues by the Government. The suggestion is not new and he has given some calculations for it. I will, however, show in proper time that all his calculations are grossly incorrect and that his proposals for utilising crores and crores of funds he expects to be available are much easier to formulate than to give effect to. Sir, if a mere gymnastic with arithmetical figures could solve our problems, a statistician might be requisitioned to ensure a sure and speedy millennium to Bengal. I would like to enquire of the economists in the Congress Group as to what they think of Mr. Biswas's specific. I hope he has sent a sample of his patent remedy to Mr. Rajagopalachariar and Mr. Govind Ballav Pant. (MR. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: They do not stand in need of it, as you do.) I shall be eagerly looking forward to what use they make of it.

Sir, allow me to congratulate Mr. Satya Priya Banerji on his maiden speech though he has uttered the familiar shibboleths. (DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is not his maiden speech.) I must say, that as far as his speech is concerned, he has kept up the histrionic traditions of the Congress. In fact, he has given us ample proof that he is going to be a valuable addition to the Congress platform!

I must also congratulate Miss Mira Dutta Gupta on her constructive speech. As regards Miss Dutta Gupta's demand that expenditure on female education should be shown separately in the budget, I can assure her that Government are already taking necessary steps for the purpose. The time was too short this year for showing this expenditure separately, but I believe we shall be able to separate it in next year's budget.

In regard to the particular point of view which Mr. Sassoon put forward in the concluding portion of his speech, I may assure him that I have no intention of undermining the profit motive. As a businessman, practically all through my life, I fully realize that it is the motivating force of all economic activities. But what I feel is that this motive needs to be interpreted in a wider sense, both in the interest of the community as well as that of the capitalists and enterprisers themselves. The capitalists and businessmen should realise that they have a duty by the community. They would not only be failing in this duty, but also ultimately invite disaster upon themselves if their primary interest were confined mainly to the accumulation of idle riches with a view to invest them in gilt-edged or similar

securities to earn a fixed rate of interest. On the contrary, the peculiar conditions of our country urgently demand that they should display a certain spirit of adventure and invest their funds in productive enterprises, so that wealth may be spent in the multiplication of opportunities for the livelihood of the people.

I do not also think, Sir, that the profit motive should, irrespective of consequences, be the be-all-and-end-all of our economic activities. We cannot possibly support or encourage a situation in which a few people will get richer and richer, while the masses become poorer and poorer. (Cheers from the Coalition Group.) In so far as the urge of pure profits is likely to foster such an unbalanced development of our society, I believe the Government, conscious of its responsibilities towards the masses, should check any undesirable excesses, lest the ultimate consequences should prove disastrous to all concerned. Happily, Sir, there are no traces of such a situation or development in our country now. While I can never have any intention of undermining the main spring of economic activity, I hope businessmen and capitalists will, in their turn, seriously ponder over what I have just said.

Honourable members have severely critisized me for not effecting retrenchment in administrative expenditure. Sir, I said in my budget speech that I fully appreciate and share their anxiety in this regard. I examined this question of retrenchment very minutely and gave reasons as to what we consider to be the position in regard to retrenchment under prevailing conditions. I am sorry to note, Sir, that honourable members have not tried to meet my arguments. They have merely asserted that further retrenchment should be effected. While some have even suggested that I have merely read them a sermon on the problem. Sir, I have neither the temperament nor the audacity to sermonise honourable members. Nor have I ever presumed any superior intelligence on my part to justify my doing so, although I may have lacked in my estimation of men and things here. I do not wish to say anything more now. The subject will be further discussed when individual demands will be taken up for the consideration of the House.

Apart from the question of retrenchment, the Government have also been criticised for sins of commission in respect of provision for a purdah college, a building for the Legislative Council, and the sending of officers for training to Denmark. So far as these items are concerned, the Hon'ble Ministers in charge of the respective departments will be able to place the whole case before the members of this House. I need not waste their time by saying more with regard to these things.

Coming to the criticism of my friend, Mr. Siddiqi, in regard to his remark that as an insurance man, though I should have taken risks, I

have avoided them, my reply is that I have not avoided them. I have done the duty of a prudent Insurance Manager in selecting only good lives, so that ultimately the company may prosper. He said that we have not made any provision for industrial finance. Sir, there is an industrial credit syndicate, a private company, to which Government have given their guarantee for meeting half the loss in capital as well as Rs. 20,000 per year for running expenditure.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: A great achievement!

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: It is not an achievement, Dr. Sanyal. I have got this much intelligence to understand that a tiny concern like this cannot provide for the huge requirements of the Province, but I want to place before the House that though Government have done such things, private men, who are always advocating the country's cause like Dr. Sanyal, have not come forward to make that institution a big and proper one, though Government have given guarantee and promised their help. One of the leaders of Dr. Sanyal is a Director of that institution and another Director is a member of this House who is not present here now. (Here Dr. Sanyal interrupted, in reply to his remarks which have been omitted. Dr. Sanyal might have applied for a post under the Syndicate but if the Directors reject it, I cannot help it.

Then my friend, Mr. Siddiqi, has asked me what we have done about the extension of electricity in the Province of Bengal. I have already said that we propose to appoint an expert to prepare a comprehensive scheme. As soon as this is done, Government will try their best to expedite giving effect to that scheme.

Regarding salt, the question of assisting private companies which manufacture salt is under the consideration of the Hon'ble Minister in charge, and, I think, in due time an announcement will be made as to the kind of aid Government will be able to give to this industry. Then he has suggested certain measures of taxation. Sir, I made clear in my budget speech that it is not due to lack of funds that we have not been able to make better provision in this year's budget; but Government want to proceed in a cautious way so that they may get the benefit of every pie that they spend and also get the real benefit of it. So the question of taxation does not immediately arise, but still Government are investigating all the avenues from which a good income may be derived. He has asked us what we are doing about taxing unearned income. So far as my information goes, the Government of India at the request of the different provinces are trying to make certain proposals about death duties and other things to help the provinces to supplement their income.

Sir, it is not possible for me to give reply to the various criticisms regarding particular matters made by different members of this House; but Government will explain their position when demands for grants are made in this House.

Mr. Pulin Behary Mullick told us that 10 per cent. of the posts in the Provincial Executive Services was not being reserved for the members of the scheduled castes. I do not know the details, but so far as I remember it was settled that in the superior services members of the scheduled castes should get 10 per cent. of the new appointments. But if any member wants to know more on the subject, he may raise the question at the time of the demands for grant and I think the Hon'ble Minister in charge will be able to give him satisfactory reply.

My friend Mr. Siddiqi very kindly offered his services to help me in constructive proposals. I welcome his offer and accept it with very great pleasure—and not only he, but if any member of this House would kindly help me in really formulating a constructive policy for the province, I shall be very glad and indeed be thankful to him for assisting me. So far as the policy and programme as we have tentatively settled is concerned, if any member wants to know them—it is a lengthy document and I cannot read this here—I am prepared to discuss this with him; if I find any opportunity to do so, I can demonstrate that almost every item of new expenditure is not an isolated thing: it is a part of a connected scheme which according to us will be very helpful for the development of this province. If any honourable member can give us constructive suggestions which are practicable——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Practical in your opinion?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I am the Finance Minister and it must be practicable and acceptable to me and not according to Dr. Sanyal. He will have to wait a few more years to have that responsibility.

Mr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why not have a Public Accounts Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: But a Public Accounts Committee will not have opportunities of examining the Government schemes before they are launched. That will be like *post mortem* examination. I know that Dr. Sanyal is seeking opportunities for picking holes here and there.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But there may be big holes too in a drain.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: In a drain there are lots of refuse and in an institution which is run by human beings there is refuse here and there and the services of Dr. Sanyal are certainly welcome for cleaning this.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Ministerial drain must be cleaned.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: And for that Dr. Sanyal is the proper person.

My friend Mr. Siddiqi suggested that we can reduce the expenditure by curtailing the number of Judges. So far as my memory goes, I do not think under the present Act we have the power to reduce the number of Judges. It is the Viceroy and the Secretary of State who can do so. I am not going to raise any technical objection. What I say is that even if we try to curtail expenditure by reducing the staff in the higher services for which up till now the Secretary of State is responsible, I do not think we shall get any help from the Secretary of State just at the present moment. But as it has been settled, after 5 years the whole question will be reviewed and we are preparing to meet the Secretary of State on that occasion with a view to reduce both the cadre and the emoluments——

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: What do you mean by "we"?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: When I say we it is the Government and even after 5 years if the Government want to continue they will be able to continue. We are not unmindful of the superior services. What I say is that this is not the time to make a move for that. I think members of the opposition know that even the Madras Congress Ministry has not taken any steps to reduce the number and emoluments of the Imperial Services. Some of the members said why we did not follow Madras in retrenching the pay of the Provincial Services. The matter should not be misunderstood. Madras has not imposed any cut in the salary of the existing services including that of the Provincial Services. What they have done is to reduce the grade of future entrants and that is what this Government did in 1934. These things will be placed before you at the time of the demands for grants and we shall be able to tell you, what we did in 1934. In 1934 we did in many cases much better than what Madras has done. Our starting salaries are about 10 per cent., and in some cases 25 per cent. less than that of Madras after their radical change in the rate of salaries. Of course I must admit that so far as the maximum salaries are concerned, after 30 per cent. cut those in Madras compare favourably with the salaries which have been fixed under the present grades in Bengal, but

as I have said in my budget speech that so far as the maximum salaries are concerned, the matter is under the consideration of the Government, and I think I shall be able to announce our policy in the next budget session.

Many of the members have urged me to raise a huge loan to finance spectacular national reconstruction schemes. I want to tell them only two things. In the first place, I have never pleaded lack of funds as a serious handicap to our undertaking sound and practical schemes for the amelioration of the condition of the people. I do not say I can find crores and crores of rupees, but I do say that if really practical schemes are forthcoming, we shall make it our duty to find necessary funds.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Who will find out schemes for you?

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Ourselves. I do not depend upon Mr. Rai Chaudhuri. When we have accepted the responsibility of administering this province we can stand on our own legs strengthened by our supporters.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is meant for our supporters.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of information, Sir, I ask from whom will the schemes be forthcoming?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, I cannot allow any cross-discussion.

The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri will see who formulates schemes and who gives effect to them. Whether I shall resort to additional taxation or raise a loan for the purpose will be my look out, for there will be many considerations involved in that procedure. May I assure the members that within reasonable limits practical schemes will not be held up for lack of funds.

The second thing I want to say is that I am not in favour of achieving any spectacular effect merely as such. I do not think that a Finance Minister should ever seek cheap popularity. While framing my budget I was conscious that I could silence much of the criticisms of the members if I could distribute the additional funds at my disposal to various departments without any curtailment. If I had done that, I would have clearly failed in my duty. I take every pain to conserve every pie that in future this may be utilised in furtherance of the amelioration of the condition of the man behind the plough. I do not consider it wise that I should sanction schemes without fully examining them both in regard to their practicability and their effectiveness. I do strongly feel that a

certain amount of caution should guide our action lest we fritter away our resources. As I have said when schemes satisfy the test of practicability and effectiveness and when I see that they could be taken up without delay and executed with all possible expedition, I am not ungenerous in granting money and I trust my colleagues will bear me out when I say that I have never acted in a niggardly fashion in providing funds for really sound and practical schemes of national reconstruction. I have always urged them to go ahead with such work and I may assure the House that my colleagues in charge of the various departments are sparing no pains to formulate and give effect to such schemes.

If I have failed to reply to any question or any criticism made by any member of this House, I hope he will excuse me. I have not been able to deal with them because it is very difficult to remember everything, but there will be a further opportunity of discussing those questions when the demand for grants will be moved in this House.

With these preliminary remarks I thank the Hon'ble Members most sincerely for the patient hearing they have given me both at the time of delivering my budget speech and in the course of my reply to their observations. They have showered upon me many bitter criticisms but as I said before I welcome them and think I shall profit by their observations.

Mr. SPEAKER: We would have no session till Tuesday next.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned till 4-45 p.m., on Tuesday, the 1st March 1938, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

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